

El Paso
Story

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El Paso Story



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El Paso Story

The Centennial Book
of El Paso, Illinois

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Foreword

On the following pages are recorded the most important happenings in the history of El Paso, Illinois and the surrounding area. This is a record of a town platted by two young men, James H. Wathen and George L. Gibson on April 20, 1854.

The El Paso Story is dedicated to those who first settled the region and to the people who built our city during the past one hundred years, which now numbers about 2,000. This city today has nine churches, three schools, ninety-two businesses, three city parks, a fine public library, a municipal water plant with softener and fifteen miles of all weather streets.

This story begins with two men who had foresight; it is a story of how unsettled prairie in the last century was developed into one of the most prosperous farming areas in the nation. This is a history of a city which is known today as "The Capital City of the Corn Belt."

At present the assessed valuation of the real estate and personal property within the city is valued at four and one-half million dollars. This is \$2,250 for every man, woman and child living in the city. In looking to the future, the greatest values may be placed on important things other than the wealth of the area.

The greatest asset of any community is best measured in such attributes as neighborliness, friendliness and cooperation. We must always keep in mind that the things that are ours today is only by the Grace of God; that we are only stewards of our talents and our wealth.

Because of our location on the Illinois Central and the Toledo, Peoria and Western Railroads, and National Highways 24 and 51, the possibilities for El Paso to grow and develop seem unlimited. The future will be determined by the foresight, initiative, industry and cooperation of the people.

El Paso, Illinois,
April 20, 1954

GEORGE W. GRAACK, Mayor.

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Thanks

We wish to acknowledge the help of many persons and firms in the preparation of this book. The cooperation has been wonderful; not once have we been refused when we asked for information or help.

George Hunt of the recorder's office let us search for information day after day. He and Mr. E. J. Riley at the abstract office must have become very tired of our visits there, but they didn't show it.

The L. L. Cook Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin permitted the use of their 1953 photographs of El Paso buildings and scenes. The aerial view we use on the inside cover is by courtesy of the Hawkeye Calendar Company of Independence, Iowa. The art work showing an Indian watching a pioneer surveyor was furnished by the America Fore Insurance Group of New York City, and several other pioneer pictures were furnished by the Publicity Division, Commonwealth of Kentucky. None made any charge whatever.

We do not claim to qualify fully as old time citizens of the El Paso community, but we received assistance from a number who can. Dean of this group is the Reverend Della B. Stretch, born in Greene Township nearly ninety-four years ago. Carrie Robinson, who has lived every one of her eighty-two years in the house she still occupies, has helped, as has Katharine Jenkins, daughter of the Isaac M. Jenkins so often mentioned. In point of family lineage, she has the longest El Paso residence. Information, pictures, and special help have come from Chris Zinkan, Ame Wolk, Dr. Charlie Patton, Bud Sturm, Bert Smith, Bert Lemon, Pete and Frank Haas, Lewis Powell, Dave Bilbrey, Jim Fitzgerald, George Williamson, Joe Fulton, Rich and Bob Mayne and many others. Especial assistance came from Mr. and Mrs. Chet Curtiss, who loaned us many of the pictures we use. Chet's many years at the Journal, and his knowledge of where we could find facts has been invaluable.

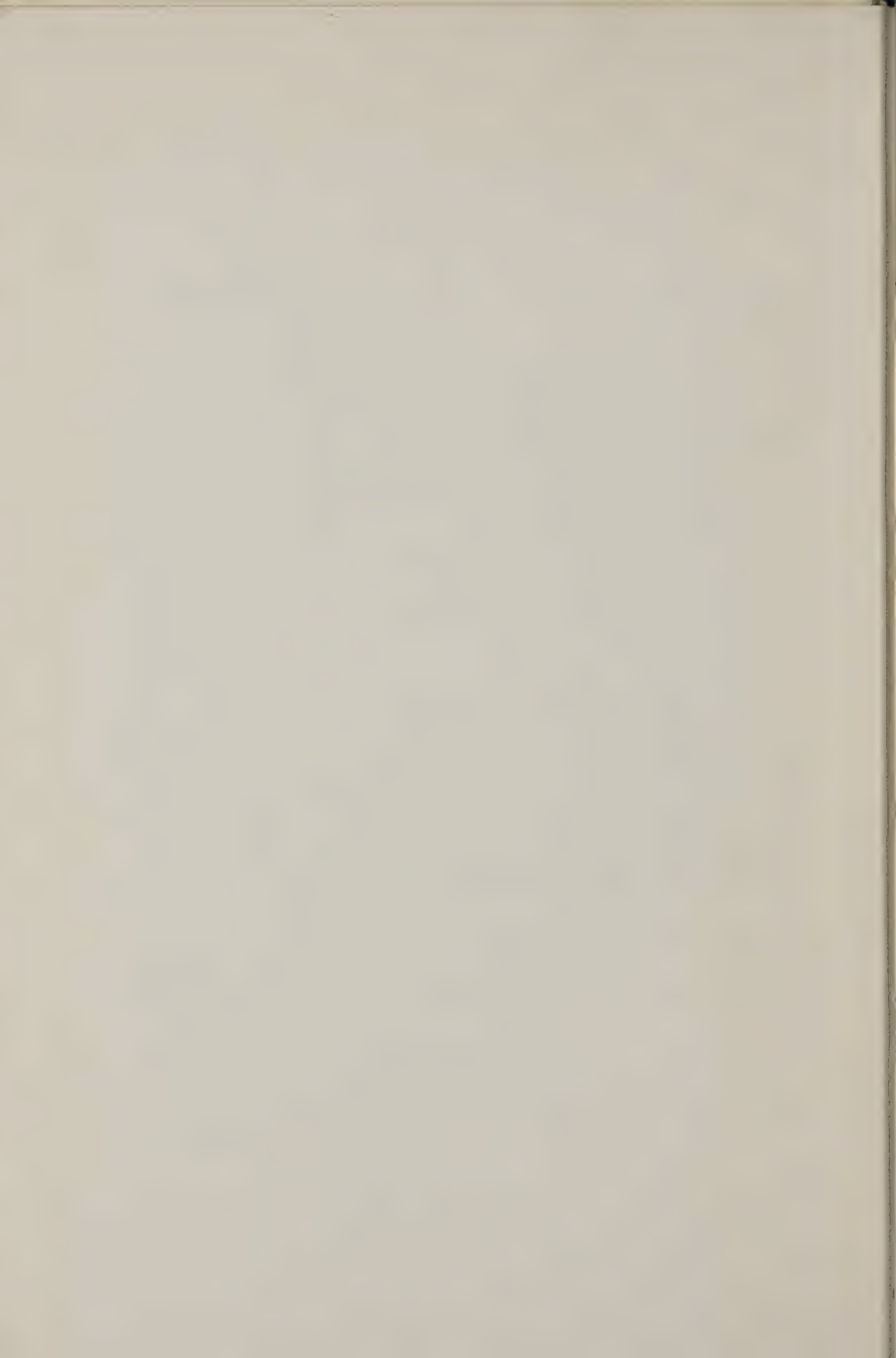
The whole community has helped because it knew this was a community project. We are very grateful to everyone.

THE EL PASO STORY COMMITTEE.

El Paso, Illinois;
April 20, 1954.

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The Inside El Paso Story

The idea for this book began the night the El Paso City Council declared 1954 to be the official centennial year. That action was necessary because no buildings were erected until 1856 except by the railroads, while the stakes which marked off blocks, lots and streets had been driven into the Wathen and Gibson land by April 20, 1854, the date they placed at the top of their original plat.

Soon after that council action, the El Paso Public Library Board voted to sponsor the book, specifying that it must carry no advertising and be self supporting. A committee of five agreed to attempt the work, and at various meetings of this group, each member was assigned certain chapters and subjects. The members were:

Glenna Bonar Baker, a member of the Library Board, whose grandfather settled in Greene Township in 1857, and whose father-in-law heard the Lincoln-Douglas debate in Ottawa. She studied music at Illinois Wesleyan University and attended the University of Illinois. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Illinois State Historical Society.

Mildred Garber Burster is Librarian, a former high school history teacher, and the wife of a member of one of El Paso's oldest business families. She was graduated from Knox College with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. She has written and directed a number of home talent plays and musicals. She is a member of the El Paso Woman's Club and the Pi Beta Phi and Theta Sigma Phi sororities.

Ethel Moore Eft is local correspondent with the *Daily Pantagraph*, and she has kept a record book of news and happenings in the El Paso community for many years. She is active in church and civic affairs, and is assistant secretary of the general committee in charge of centennial events. The Reed family, her maternal grandparents, settled in Greene Township eighty years ago.

Cassell C. Kingdon is a member of the Library Board, and acted as chairman and business agent for the group. His grandfather settled a Panola Township farm in 1859. He is the cashier of a local bank, a colonel in the United States Army Reserves with service in both World Wars, and is a member of the Illinois State Historical Society.

Glenn Yerk Williamson is a life-long El Pasoan whose great grandfather settled near Gabetown in 1857. Since he was graduated from El Paso Town-

ship High School in 1921, he has had dozens of magazine articles published on varied subjects, the only member of the committee with such writing experience.

The book is not intended as a complete history of our community. It is a spare time work of busy people who hope the somewhat unrelated chapters may provide something that is new and different to much you have read previously. Since each committee member worked independently, the need for editing and coordination was apparent, but minor differences have been allowed to stand.

Margaret Caroline Stookey of the English department of the El Paso Unit District High School did much of the editing, for which the committee is grateful. She was graduated from James Milliken University, and in 1950 Dwight D. Eisenhower signed her diploma at Columbia University awarding her Masters degree.

The map of the city of El Paso, and the early trail map of the area were drawn by Helen Brown Gordon, a member of the El Paso Woman's Club.

This book is a part of the general centennial year observance which is directed by all of the El Paso civic organizations under the guidance of a general committee elected by them. Col. Virgil C. Gordon, a graduate of Northwestern University with service in both World Wars, is the general chairman. The other members of his board of directors are John G. Parr and Robert Mayne, Sr., both lifelong farmers in this community, Ott Panther, former president of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce, and E. J. Israel, retired railroad official, who is the board secretary. Mayor George W. Graack, first temporary chairman, is an honorary member of the general committee.

THE EL PASO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.

Ralph A. Burster, President

Katharine E. Jenkins, Secretary

April 20, 1954.

CHAPTER 1

The Trailblazers (A PROLOGUE)

Who were they who blazed the trails through the vast stretch of trackless prairie to the spot that was to become El Paso, Woodford County, Illinois? Was it perchance, first of all, an Indian brave who, leaving well beaten paths in search of food one spring day, slithered his way through the gently swaying grass to surprise a bison wallowing in a slough? Perhaps it was he who lost the two axe heads which Edson Harvey found decades later on his lot one of block thirty. Perhaps this brave led the way for others of his tribe by his tales of the lush grasslands he had seen abounding in bison, seeking relief from the heat and the insects in the watering places and the drying lakes dotting the plains. Evidences of buffalo wallows still remain; two are on the P. H. Andrews farm northwest of Gridley where maps as late as 1873 show a Gridley Lake. It was later drained off by open ditches to reclaim the rich farmland known to this day as Poverty Flats.

Possibly this brave took along a young and restive son, who in his excitement at proving his skill as a hunter, lost a small but perfect arrowhead which a little pale-faced school girl was destined to find untold moons hence, when a garden was plowed for her father on lot four of block four, Ferbrache's addition.

Who were they, whence they came or went, only our imaginations can tell. All that remains to prove they were red-skinned trailblazers is a handful of such relics; unearthed from time to time in unrelated spots. But trailblazers they were, long before the French left their written record about this area.

First to do this was Pere Marquette, a Jesuit priest traveling with Louis Jolliet, fur trader and explorer and five other companions. They must have touched Woodford County shores as they came up the Illinois River in 1673 in canoes stocked with the white man's wares, to be traded sparingly for the valuable furs of the Indians. Jolliet (whose signature shows the two l's) had been surprised to find the Arkansas Indians had previously traded with unknown white men. There was no clue as to their identity, but they must have been Spaniards from Florida or the southwest. Marquette wrote the first description of our central Illinois area to his superior.¹ It is worth remembering:

We have seen nothing like this river for the fertility of the land, its prairies, woods, wild cattle, bustards, swans, ducks, parrots and even beavers. There are many small lakes and rivers. That on which we sailed is wide, deep, and still, for 65 leagues. We found on it a village of Illinois called Kaskaskia, consisting of 74 Cabins. They received us very well, and obliged me to promise that I would return to instruct them we passed through the Illinois of Peouarea, and during three days I preached the faith in all their cabins; after which, while we were embarking, a dying child was brought to me at The water's edge, and I baptized it shortly before it died



FATHER MARQUETTE AND LOUIS JOLLIET, FIRST OF RECORD TO VISIT
CENTRAL ILLINOIS.

Thus was the first religious act performed within the boundaries of Illinois.

Without venturing too far from river highways, French traders and priests were over most of the state before 1699, when Cahokia was founded, and perhaps a year before Henri de Tonti abandoned the La Salle trading post that he had helped establish atop Starved Rock as the French Fort St. Louis.

By 1730 French military expeditions were marching overland. Lt. Louis Coulon de Villiers the elder marched his 800 French and Indian soldiers that summer from Fort St. Joseph, now Niles, Michigan, to *le rocher*, from where he followed the fleeing Fox Indians,² probably along the Vermilion River and Rook's Creek to the Arrowsmith battlefield. On this route he would have passed near today's Weston and Colfax.

That siege is still the largest military action in which white men were engaged on Illinois soil. Lt. St. Ange had arrived before de Villiers with a column from Fort Chartres, and shortly both were joined by Lt. Nicholas des Noyelles, sieur de Fleurimont, with a force from the Wea Indian post and Fort Miami, where Fort Wayne now stands in Indiana. Lt. des Noyelles probably marched the first soldiers over Woodford County soil. On August 14, 1735 he began a trek from Montreal to where Des Moines, Iowa, is now built, one of the longest of military marches of those days. He wrote³ of coming through his two old posts and passing the old battleground (which the Indians called Etnataek) and marching to the very early French post at Peoria he must have followed the old Wabash-Peoria Indian trail which crossed our Kansas Township. Oddly, his long march accomplished almost nothing, and has passed into obscurity.

After 1721 our lands became the border ground between the two great rival colonies of France. French letters said the Arrowsmith siege was "fought well within the Louisiana Colony," meaning the ground was under the jurisdiction of the Vincennes and Fort Chartres posts. The Wea Indian Fort, where La Fayette, Indiana, now stands, was assigned to the Canadian colony, as were the earlier Starved Rock and Peoria posts.

Thirty-two months after the treaty of Paris was ratified, the French pulled down their colors at Fort Chartres on October 10, 1765, and the British ran up theirs.

The Long Knives under George Rogers Clark ended the British occupancy in July, 1778 by capturing Kaskaskia, and followed that up with a terrible overland march during the February thaw of 1779, capturing Vincennes and General Hamilton with it. Patrick Henry, Governor of the Colony of Virginia, had thus performed a vital service in the Revolution in sending a determined young officer to claim the vast midwest for Virginia. It ended for good the claims of the British, the French and the Spaniards* to any lands east of the mighty Mississippi. It also ended the claims of certain land companies who had "purchased" almost all of Illinois from the Indians for a few hundred dollars worth of goods, and who had been quite persistent in trying to make their titles good.

One expedition marched over Woodford County soil in the Revolution. While Clark was making his march on Kaskaskia, Paulette Meillet, credited with founding Peoria, took some 300 Indians and Frenchmen from his little village and crossed the river to march eastward and successfully attack Fort St. Joseph in lower Michigan, avenging Brady's defeat. It was on this arduous march over the prairie that Meillet cruelly tomahawked a fellow Frenchman named Amlin, only because Amlin had fallen ill, and the commander would not be handicapped with a soldier who could not march.

Letters of the Jesuit Fathers reporting to their superiors have given us much of the early history of our area in their famed *Jesuit Relations*. Father Marest, who served as a missionary from Hudson's Bay to Kaskaskia, described the trials of one of these trailblazing trips as he tells of his march from the latter place to Peoria in the spring of 1711:

I had nothing but my crucifix and breviary, and was accompanied by only two savages. The terror of these vast, uninhabitable regions in which for twelve days not a single soul was seen, almost took away my courage. This was a journey wherein there was no village, no bridge, no ferryboat, no house, no beaten path; over boundless prairies, intersected by rivulets and rivers, through forests and thickets and marshes, in which we sometimes plunged to the girdle. At night repose was on grass or leaves, exposed to wind and rain; happy if by some rivulet whose waters might quench our thirst. Meals were only from game killed on the way, and from roasting ears of corn.

This classic on trailblazing is not the first to mention corn, the great product of Illinois. Although ill and about to die, Father Marquette wrote to Quebec in the winter of 1673-4 from within the walls of the first building ever constructed in our state, that "we have not lacked provisions, and we have a large sack of corn."

Jesuits, Franciscans, Seminary Fathers and later Capuchin Monks ventured into the Illinois wilderness for a life of hardship and often death, when they could have lived in a degree of ease and comfort in France had they so chosen. Sulpicians and Fathers from the Mission of the Holy Family also came. Those who travelled with La Salle were usually non-Jesuits. Because he had once thought to join that order and changed his mind, he felt more at ease with Franciscans, as was Hennepin, then of the Recollect branch. These Roman Catholic Fathers provided names to go down in our early history, such as Marquette, Hennepin, Membre', Ribourde, Allouez, Gravier and later Meurin and Gibault.

Following George Rogers Clark came other American born trailblazers from the east, seeking new lands or fighting Indians. These included Lt. Richard Clark, who made a trip into the Peoria area to pacify Indians in 1780, and William Clark, later Indian Commissioner for the state, but more famous as a member of the exploration team of Lewis and Clark. Both these men were brothers of George Rogers Clark.

Major Stephen S. Long of the United States Army engineers, Rocky Mountain explorer for whom Long's Peak is named, came by keel boat from Jefferson Barracks to Peoria in 1816 with two soldiers and Francis Le Clair, the founder of Davenport, Iowa. He returned south overland, and was making an exploratory trip for the later surveying parties, studying the giant task of staking out the meridians and base lines of the carefully planned Jeffersonian survey system. The actual marking of the Third Principal Meridian, north from the Ohio's mouth on 89° 10', 30" West Longitude, was completed in 1821.⁴ Thus unknown

persons tramped down the prairie grass through the length of the state, passing only a mile west of Secor.



PIONEER SURVEYING PARTY.

(By courtesy of the America Fore Insurance Group, New York City.)

Other engineers completed the marking of some of the six square mile townships east and west of this guide line by 1831, for we find the first lands in McLean County patented that year with these new survey descriptions. Surveyors continue over our lands to this day, but the wonder is that these earliest parties marked the meridians and base lines so accurately. Illinois Central surveyors followed in 1851-52, staking off their right-of-way, and going far on each side of it to locate the lands granted the railroad, then opening for sale to settlers.⁵ It is fortunate for us they carefully marked on their plats the trails then in use which took direct routes across the prairies. We reproduce those local trails on our map for you.

Our first bit of Woodford County history was a military action of the War of 1812 when we had just been transferred into Madison County.⁶ This expedition has seldom been mentioned and perhaps it is just as well, for we cannot be too proud of it. On October 18, 1812, territorial militiamen and U. S. Rangers left Fort Russell, near Edwardsville, under the personal direction of Governor Ninian Edwards and Colonel Russell, and marched north on the Elkhart Hill landmark.⁷ On Salt Creek near there they burned the Kickapoo Indian town as the tribe fled; following this, they burned another Indian village on the lower Mackinaw and moved northward into our Partridge Township.

The war gave an excuse to destroy these Indian villages, although there was scant evidence the tribes were pro-British or pro-anything. Men later prominent in Illinois were in that march, including the four Whiteside brothers, William, Robert, Stephen and David; Elias Rector, Benjamin Stephens, Nathaniel Pope and Thomas Carlin. In our county they attacked and burned the Potawatomi village of Black Partridge's people then under Chief Chequeneboc, killing two or three of them and destroying their crops which they had stored for their winter food. Meantime, the expedition's supply boats under Capt. Craig arrived at Peoria, where the French and Indians had lived and traded peaceably since around 1700.

Apparently resenting this French-Indian amity, Craig's men burned Peoria, then known as Fort Clark, and took away all the French as prisoners, including a well known Indian agent of the United States government named Thomas Forsyth. After being taken to St. Louis, Forsyth finally secured the release of the French and an official apology, but no damages of record. However, we do find another expedition under General Howard helping rebuild the town the next summer to make some amends.⁸ They cut most of their timber on the Woodford County side upstream and floated it down and across to Peoria's water front.

Thus was Chief Black Partridge's Woodford County village destroyed by whites within ten weeks after he had personally saved the life of Mrs. Helm in the Chicago massacre on August 15, 1812. That chief had tried to prevent his hot-headed young braves from committing that atrocity. Seeing he could not, he gave back his "White man's medal" saying he could not wear it while his young men made war upon the whites.

Another expedition came near in 1812. General Hopkins was to burn the revived Kickapoo village in West Township of McLean County, and then join the Edwards expedition at Peoria. Before the anticipated fight, his ill-disciplined militiamen mutinied and went back to the Vincennes post ingloriously out of the General's control. A twenty-seven year old aide, Capt. Zachary Taylor, relayed the orders which were not obeyed. However, in June of 1813, General Joseph Bartholomew⁹ did burn that village with a much smaller force. Capt. James

Bigger may have been with him on that raid, as he was with Bartholomew in the battle at Tippecanoe. Some years thereafter both men settled in the Clarksville area between Lexington and Gridley where both sleep side by side in the little pioneer cemetery. Clarksville is a bit out of our area, but the Bigger family have been prominent in our history ever since and continuous residents here. Little James Bigger living east of Kappa is the fifth generation descendant of this old Indian fighter and pioneer for whom he is named, along with his maternal grandfather.

* * *

The first Woodford County resident was an uncertain character named Blaylock, for whom a little creek is named in Partridge Township. He was found living in an Indian-like wigwam in 1819, and he almost immediately moved away. Arriving visitors found evidence of possible counterfeiting in his deserted tepee. William Blanchard of Spring Bay Township had settled just south of the present Woodford line in Tazewell County in 1822, and he said the first settler to actually build a home in Woodford County was a man named Darby from Vermont, who built on the Crocker farm on the southeast quarter of Section thirty-five in Spring Bay Township.

Earliest in southeastern Woodford were Amasa and Susannah Stout, who were on upper Panther Creek in western Greene Township, not then formed, in 1828.¹⁰ In 1829 the Patrick families came, and in 1830 Young Bilbrey and his wife, Amanda Patrick, came up from Overton County, Tennessee, into the same area. Bilbrey's mother was a Young, and that was his first name, often spelled "Bilberry" in earlier histories.

These first settlers built their cabins (at first some only had three sides) near a spring or a stream for water; and in the timber for fuel, shade and the necessary building material. The Stouts moved to Dry Grove in 1836, but the Bilbreys remain today in our city, the oldest family to live continuously in the immediate El Paso area. Young Bilbrey moved into Money Creek Township south of the Mackinaw in 1850, but some of his children remained.

The first actual written record of anyone crossing over the site that became El Paso goes to a Black Hawk war veteran named John D. Gardiner, who later lived in El Paso and is buried in Evergreen cemetery. He wrote of returning home from that war "when I rode over the site on which El Paso was later built." His pension claim tells of no fights with Indians, but does say, "I was bitten by a rattlesnake," and that the wound was not properly treated for some time until he reached Rock Island.

The war was over with Black Hawk's surrender to the same Colonel Zachary Taylor who had been General Hopkin's aide twenty years before. Oddly, other soldiers in his army in this Indian war included a

West Pointer named Jefferson C. Davis who was only a lieutenant, and a raw militiaman who was an elected Captain of his company with little military knowledge named Abraham Lincoln. Fate had another war for these two men thirty years later.

Indians and bison made the original trails, and our pioneers made others as they rode overland to discuss mutual problems, including that of the Indians. The Potawatomi were first to move from our immediate area, leaving from Six Mile Creek near Hudson in 1831 before the war. Some tribes did not leave northern Illinois until 1838. The Delaware, Miami, Ottawa, Potawatomi and the early Peorias were reasonably friendly, with the Kickapoos usually listed as undesirable. The Sacs and the Foxes were the most dreaded. In the winter of the deep snows (1830-31) local Indians were of more aid than danger to the hard pressed pioneers, and they sometimes brought in food when the whites found hunting too difficult.

The Clarksville to Fort Clark trail was first marked by plowing a furrow, because travel was insufficient to make the route certain. It ran about one quarter mile south of where Allen and Lucy Willis Hart built their cabin on a little hill on the south side of Section twenty-seven in Palestine Township in 1837. Another trail met this one at Bowling Green and went on northward to Versailles and Hanover, later Metamora. Lincoln and the other lawyers of the old Eighth Judicial Circuit traveled this trail.

North of Hanover James Boys operated a stagecoach post office, perhaps first in the county, although Postmaster Simpson Y. Barnard was operating the Josephine office in eastern Greene Township as early as 1836, and it was continued until the railroad was built through Panola in 1853. Josephine stood at the edge of the woods, just west of the stage road toward Hennepin.¹¹ This trail had been blazed by a sixteen year old fur trader and woodsman named Gurdon S. Hubbard in February, 1819. This boy agent of Astor's American Fur Company was trading with the Indians at their Hennepin village, and learned from them that the Kickapoos of Grand Village (West Township in McLean County) might soon move, so he decided to trade with them before they did. He struck out boldly across country in mid-winter for Blooming Grove, where he could go southeastward on the Wabash Indian trail, or the cut off trail just north of it.¹²

Hubbard went from the Grand Village to trade with the Salt Creek Indians east of Urbana. Marrying Watseka, the Indian girl, he aided in the founding of Danville and became its first merchant. He then originated the direct overland trail to Chicago, for years known as the "Hubbard Trace."

We have located the Josephine post office on or very near the farm home that was later Elias and Mary Ray's, where a white crib now stands on land owned by Leo Render. Another early stagecoach post office was in El Paso Township on land now owned by Mr. and Mrs.

John G. Parr. Caleb and Elizabeth Horn first operated this one, and it was known as Roxan. Horn was related to the Mayne family. He finally purchased the 120 acre farm, the post office being on the north half of the southwest quarter of Section nineteen, on June 19, 1851. Apparently he had operated it for some years as the tenant of Grant and Montgomery. Horn later rented the farm to Thomas and Elizabeth Campbell, who took over Roxan as the Campbell post office, and Horn moved into Kappa when the railroad came, in some position with an early agricultural organization. The Campbells¹³ were also related to the Maynes, and finally purchased the farm from the Horns. Thomas Campbell used to tell the older Maynes how the mail often came over the trail by pony express riders, and how upon occasion in midwinter they cut ice from the saddlebags before the courier could dismount for care and food.

The section line roadways, now well improved, were only a supposition for some years after the surveys were first made, and our early settlers continued to use these old trails as short cuts. Early settler George Andrews came with his parents to Illinois Central land near Tonica in 1855, and a few years later they moved northeast of El Paso on the prairie. He related to the writer:

I often rode with my father to Streator for coal and supplies. It was a long, hard two day trip, so we shortened it all we could by driving across country. At first I can remember only one cabin between ours and Streator. Where the trail was not marked, we followed the stars at night and landmarks such as the little groves on the creeks by day. Later, farmers began plowing their fields so we couldn't drive overland any more, but by then we could buy coal and other needed items at the new railroad towns.

Wheat was often hauled from the El Paso area to Peoria by wagon, sometimes to Chicago. Lumber and food supplies were the usual return loads. Large cattlemen like the Funk¹⁴ families of McLean County would organize cattle and hog drives for themselves and neighbors. By closely following the route of today's busy highway 66, they made the trip to the Chicago slaughter houses in twelve to fifteen days.

The prairie fire was a great hazard until the Civil War days. So tall it would almost hide a horseman, this native grass was annually burned by the Indians so the wild game would return in the spring to feed on the tender young shoots that followed. Pioneers continued this practice to make plowing easier. Often these fires got out of hand in a fresh wind, and horses sometimes had to be stampeded to get away from a threatened area. Cabins on the prairie or in the woods always had a clearing, or plowed strip around them for protection. One eastern newsman riding southward from La Salle over the new Illinois Central in 1853 to the first of the Illinois State fairs wrote that "it is beautiful country, and at night many prairie fires are seen."

Wild life has felt the change of the balance of nature that the white man brought. The bison, elk, black bears, wolves and catamount that Pere Marquette saw have gone, but the beavers and deer will make a



GABETOWN MAY HAVE LOOKED SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
(By courtesy of Kentucky Department of Publicity.)

comeback if protected. Beavers began building dams on the Mackinaw and lower Panther Creek in 1952 after being absent for many decades. Deer are seen occasionally and high school boys trap raccoon, muskrats and a few mink in the Mackinaw hills each winter.

Through the vigorous reclaiming of the land our game has changed. Ducks and geese are seasonal transients in ever reducing numbers, and the prairie chickens of the grasslands have all but disappeared. There are still some quail covies, but Sportsmen's Clubs have had to restock the beautiful pheasant. The fox population has actually increased of late, but rabbits are on the decline.

The colorful and inquisitive Carolina parakeet that greeted the French in vast numbers is believed extinct since 1904 when the last flock was sighted in Florida. The passenger pigeon whose amazing migrations darkened the sky for three days at a time passed from the earth when the last one died in a Cincinnati zoo in 1914. Wild turkeys, perhaps the most edible birds of all, are no longer seen in Illinois. Birds of the deep woods such as the scarlet tanager have learned to live in town, and the dickcissel has come east with the alfalfa. The English sparrow is finally diminishing as better buildings replace the old ones that were so suited for its nesting. Though the starling relishes the corn borer and earworm, it has become a great pest in the towns and is still increasing, while the red-headed woodpecker, our only red, white and blue bird, is disappearing as the soft maples are cut down and not replaced. Hawks and large owls are less rare

than a few years ago when sportsmen and farmers learned to protect these rodent hunting birds.

There is now little virgin timber standing in the El Paso area. Hamm's Woods, twice timbered but never pastured, shelters yellow violets, jewelweed, a rare yellow trillium and a blue orchid called ladies' tresses. This timber would have made a wonderful wildlife sanctuary for future generations to enjoy, but it has recently been cut over and much of its beauty spoiled.

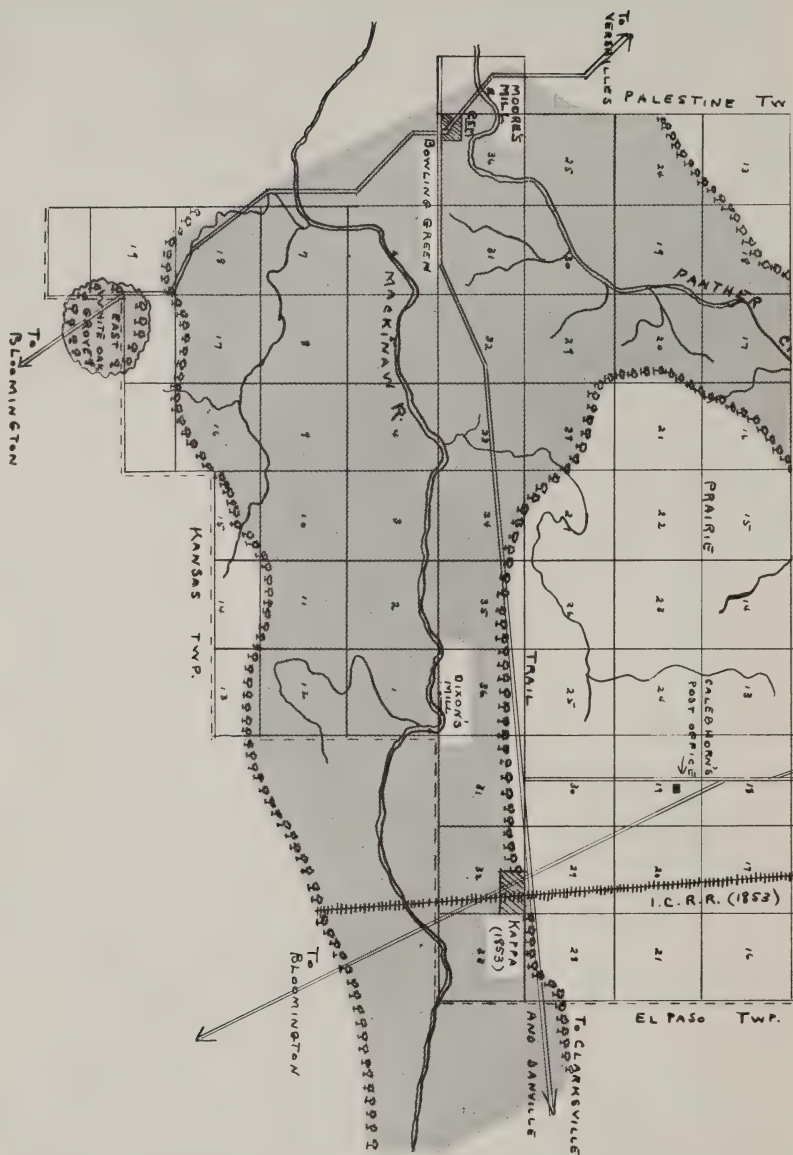
A large variety of trees are now supplanting native varieties; these include the Chinese elm, horse chestnut, buckeye, ginko and tulip trees. Avenues of our fine American elms are threatened with the elm disease; several trees in El Paso came down in 1952 and 1953. The chestnut blight killed chestnuts all over our country and the only mature tree to survive locally, so far as we can learn, is in the yard of Dr. A. C. King at 403 East First Street. This tree bears nuts yearly, but because of the need for cross-pollination the fruits are undeveloped.

Most of the game discussed provided our pioneers with food, and with abundant fish in our streams these furnished their meat supply. One traveler wrote quite casually, "Being hungered, I went out and shot myself a deer." It was as easy as going to the butcher shop today, and cheaper. Early farmers brought in rabbits, quail, pheasants and prairie chickens by the dozens to trade for merchandise in the shops of the new prairie towns. There is no doubt but that some of our wildlife has suffered extinction or near extinction with the settlement of the country. It points to a serious problem in conservation of game, natural resources and soil.

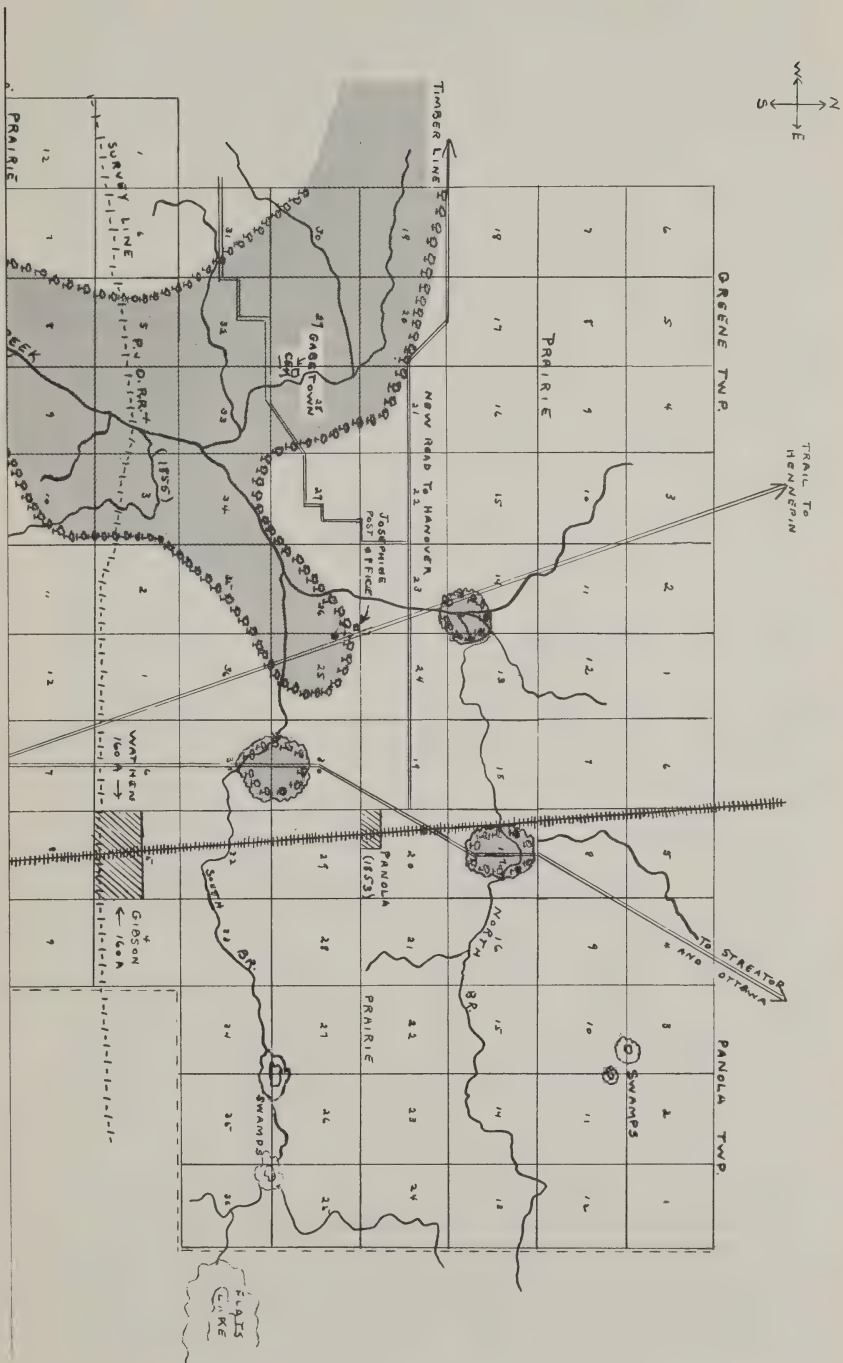
Pioneer days are gone and it is a good thing they are. We pleasure seeking, soft living grandchildren might not have endured the hardships as did our elders. If our own children have a broad vision and inquiring minds, the pioneering heritage will make the next hundred years more exciting than the last. Many fatal illnesses have been eradicated along with much of the hand labor drudgery of the past, and transportation our forefathers never dreamed of is today routine.

* * *

A complete prologue to the El Paso Story should tell of the geological ages. It might say that after two billion years or so, the Pleistocene Age began and our land turned cold as great ice sheets repeatedly crawled down from the north, depositing deep moraines and each time smoothed the hills a little more. As recently as 20,000 years ago, the final glacier of the Great Ice Age melted away with the coming of warmer times, and except perhaps for the lowly turtle, the age of dinosaurs and strange animals was at an end. Prairie grasses then grew tall on our plains as new watercourses found their ways to the seas. For 15,000 years or more this grass caught the



EARLIEST AREA MAP OF THE SECTIONS LATER FORMING THE TOWNSHIPS OF PANOLA, GREENE, PALESTINE, EL PASO AND KANSAS, SHOWING THE EARLY TRAILS IN USE BEFORE ROADS WERE LAID OUT ON THE SECTION LINES.



dusts of the air and built a black top soil that included a mixture of vegetable and animal decay amid the ashes of forest and prairie fires.

The settlement of our land has required only a figurative thirty seconds on the total geological scale of time. To this new soil came new animals, including man. Our mountain forebears who first saw these plains were amazed, for mile after mile they extended to the horizon, level beyond belief. We who live upon the flat land are so accustomed to it that we forget it is something different than most of the world knows. For only in the great Mississippi Valley and in the Pampas country are plains found on so vast a scale.

To this flat land our mountain ancestors came; on foot, horseback and in Conestogas. Husbands and wives dared the new frontier together; the men with guns and Bibles, the women with stout hearts and children. Ours is a heritage of courage and determination. Not one of these pioneer parents of ours ever made a dime by selling America short. To them we respectfully dedicate this book. They were daring men and women who

Set their feet in the Wilderness
And the Wilderness became a Home!

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. *Jesuit Relations*; LXXXVII., page 163
2. *The Arrowsmith Battlefield*; Wm. B. Brigham, and an unpublished manuscript, *The Fox Campaign of 1730* by C. C. K.
3. Des Noyelles, reporting by letter; *Wisconsin Historical Collection*, Vol. 16.
4. Local surveys began as soon as the base line, surveyed east from the village of Cahokia, and the Third Principal Meridian, running north from the mouth of the Ohio River, were completed for starting points. We recommend Dr. Arthur W. Watterson's thesis on this in the McLean County Historical Society's library. The second meridian ran north from the mouth of the Little Blue River in Indiana, and the fourth ran north from the mouth of the Illinois River. We believe it is true these lines were accurately surveyed over trackless prairies on a true north and south line because the engineers nightly sighted on Polaris and aligned ground stakes on it. In 1821 Polaris was $1^{\circ} 40'$ from the true Pole, its apparent motion being around it on that radius. The engineers could know that at 3 o'clock, day or night, Polaris would be exactly true north in April and October, with the other months figured proportionately. Dr. F. W. Schlesinger of Adler Planetarium states he does not know the method used at that date.
5. The first land recordings in lower McLean County were in 1831; in that part which later became Woodford County, the first recorded patent we have found is that of Orman Robinson, who filed for the east half of the southwest quarter in Section eleven, Kansas Township, February 4, 1834.
6. It is interesting to note the several jurisdictions over our area. First claimed by Spain, then Plymouth Colony, then actually occupied by the French until taken over by the British on October 10, 1765, it was finally claimed and occupied for Virginia Colony in July, 1778 by George Rogers

Clark. Virginia then established a "County of Illinois" with Kaskaskia as the county seat, and Capt. John Todd as its Lieutenant Governor, or Commander. When Virginia surrendered her claims in 1784, we became a part of Indiana in the Northwest Territory.

On June 20, 1790, Gen. Arthur St. Clair, our territorial governor, decreed the first county to be named St. Clair in his own honor. He then put our area in a second county and named it for Gen. Knox. The second county covered much of Indiana and Illinois. The southwestern boundary of this was described as a line running straight to the northwest "from a small creek or stream ... above Fort Massac" to the "mouth of the Little Michilmacinack," which is our own Mackinaw River. After being in this huge county we were transferred frequently, as follows:

February 3, 1801: To St. Clair County, along with all of Northern Illinois. We were still in Indiana Territory.

September 14, 1812: To Madison County, Territory of Illinois; Governor Ninian Edwards designated the "house of Thomas Kirkpatrick" as the county seat.

November 28, 1814: To Edwards County by legislative action, instead of decree as all transfers except the very first had been. Our boundary on the west is mentioned in a new manner: "The Meridian Line which runs due north from the mouth of the Ohio River." This 1814 act made the survey of the third meridian a necessity, accomplished seven years later.

December 31, 1816: To Crawford County with the same western boundary.

March 22, 1819: To Clark County, with the same western boundary. It was our first transfer by legislative act of the new State of Illinois.

February 14, 1821: To Fayette County, a much smaller unit, with the Third Principal Meridian, then being surveyed, still our western boundary. Our northern boundary is moved southward to the Illinois River line.

January 31, 1827: To Tazewell County; our northern line was then fixed as it remains today, except that it extended eastward some miles into what is now Livingston County.

December 25, 1830: To McLean County, newly formed and named for John McLean. Our western boundary was moved west to a north and south line now Eureka's main roadway.

February 27, 1841: To Woodford County with its present day boundaries. Organizer Thomas Bullock arranged a zigzag line in parting from Republican McLean County which would assure known Democrats would live in Woodford County thereafter, and Woodford County repeatedly voted for the Democratic Party until the turn of the century. He also named the county seat Versailles and the county Woodford, after his old home in that county in Kentucky.

(From *Counties of Illinois*, compiled by Edward J. Barrett, Secretary of State, as to dates of transfer only.)

7. Condensed from several early Illinois histories; see Edwards, Reynolds, or Struve and Davidsons.
8. Struve and Davidson. Also see Howe's *The Loyal West*, p. 311.
9. Joseph and Elizabeth (McNaught) Bartholomew were among the most prominent of McLean County's celebrated pioneers. He became a major

general of militia in the War of 1812, after serving in the Revolution. He again served in the Black Hawk War. He and his son helped plan the town of Clarksville in 1834 after first settling on Section 13 in Money Creek Township in 1830. John Dawson and John Hendrix had first settled in Blooming Grove of McLean County in 1822 to be the earliest there, the Orendorffs arriving the next year. We mention these because we were in McLean County from 1830 to 1841, and because of Bartholomews close association with James Bigger.

10. The Stouts did not enter their land as it was not yet surveyed. The pattern indicated the land was surveyed as the demand for patents came. Thus the first lands were entered around Shawneetown in 1814.

The survey system is older than we had supposed. It was established by an act of the Continental Congress approved May 20, 1785, and that year the first "geographer" was appointed for the Illinois country in the person of Thomas Hutchins of Fort Chartres. He is probably the real author of the system usually accredited to Thomas Jefferson. (See: Moses, *History and Statutes of Illinois*, p. 183.)

Moses says Hutchins was a British citizen and a former member of the King's Sixteenth Royal Regiment, but that he became a colonial sympathizer and was imprisoned for this fifth column activity. He somehow got out of jail, and we find him serving the colonial cause against the British in General Nathanael Greene's units, being soon rewarded after the war with an appointment in the Illinois country. We find no record that he did more than improve the crude western maps of his day, and possibly plan the survey system we now use.

11. Josephine post office was just west of the trail in the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section twenty-five in Greene Township, at that date not formed. The Leo Render abstract shows' an old metes and bounds survey upon which we feel certain was the Josephine office.
12. *Illinois State Historical Society Journal* for October, 1937. McLean County Trails Map in *McLean County and Its Schools*, Wm. B. Brigham.
13. Thomas and Elizabeth Campbell's son, John F. Campbell, was living near Fort Scott, Kansas, at the time his parents ran this old stage post office. On the morning of May 17, 1858, about thirty raiders rode into town, seized some of the citizens, John F. Campbell among them, and they were ordered shot for no reason at all except that the leader, a man named Hamilton, stated they were "free staters."

The Campbells were originally from Campbell's Mills, Blacklick, Pennsylvania, where General Charles Campbell, Thomas' father, was once
 * an influential citizen. Thomas Campbell's sister married a near relative of President Buchanan.

14. Dr. Helen M. Cavanagh, *Funk of Funk's Grove*, 1952.

CHAPTER 2.

Pioneers and Pioneer Living

In hearing stories of pioneer life, one may ask, "Why did they come? Why did they leave comfortable homes in much older and more settled places?" The answer is to know something of the climate, geology and history of our wonderful state and to learn more of the story of mankind in his ceaseless endeavor, regardless of comfort or cost, to find a more rewarding life. Man has ever sought better opportunities, if not for himself, then for his children and even his children's children. Pioneers came with a matchless courage, a vision of the future, and a faith that had been building for generations. It was with these inherent qualities that they were able to develop a new locality, a new county, and a new state. In 1954 El Paso celebrated its centennial, but settlements in the woods of Greene and Kansas Townships, then unformed, began 126 years ago.

The Illinois River is wholly within our state boundary, navigable for over 200 miles. There are many lesser rivers, creeks and swamps, the smallest of which the pioneers called sloughs, all tending to keep the soil moist and rich, especially in the spring of the year. The rivers were the early highways, and overland travel was then very difficult. At times the matted turf would seem to rise and fall when stepped upon or passed over with a vehicle. The pioneers called this trembling ground.

This ground moisture was primarily the cause of much illness, particularly chills and fevers; one of these was called the *ague*, an intermittent fever with seeming cold and hot fits which made the early settlers miserable. In their determination to minimize their personal discomforts, they had a saying, "He ain't sick, he's just got the *ager*." In the fall after the rains lessened they were often distressed with more serious fevers. In addition they were plagued by flies, mosquitoes and other insects, not to mention reptiles and the possibly impure water. They were without adequate means to combat these many trying conditions of pioneer life.

Settled first by the French and British at key posts, the Indian tribes found the influence of the two very different. The French had their religion and a gentle manner which won the friendship of the tribes for a hundred years. The English came for conquest, were successful, and the result was turbulence and suspicion. French

soldiers and even some Indian braves wept when the colors of France were hauled down. On October 7, 1763, King George III of England in a proclamation forbade

making any purchases or settlements whatever, or taking possession of any lands beyond the sources of any rivers which fall into the Atlantic Ocean from the north or northwest.

This policy would have made a perpetual wilderness of this vast, fertile region, which by this proclamation was closed to any and all would-be pioneers. In violation of the King's edict the British governors permitted companies to purchase land from the Indians. The Illinois Land Company composed of English traders and merchants obtained two vast tracts of land from an Indian council of ten chiefs. The deed was recorded September 2, 1773:

For two hundred fifty blankets, two hundred sixty strouds, three hundred fifty skirts, one hundred fifty pairs of stroud and half thick stockings, one hundred fifty breach cloths, five hundred pounds of gun powder, one thousand pounds of lead, one gross knives, thirty pounds of vermilion, two thousand gun flints, two hundred pounds brass kettles, two thousand pounds tobacco, three dozen gilt looking glasses, one gross gun worms, two gross awls, one gross fire steels, sixteen dozen of gartering, ten thousand pounds of flour, five hundred bushels of Indian corn, twelve horses, twelve horned cattle, twenty bushels of salt, twenty guns and five shillings in money.

This was the total consideration for a vast domain that finally formed many counties of Illinois. It was only one of several such deeds, and the titles might have been insisted upon had this not been but one year before the Boston tea party and only a year and a half before the battles of Lexington and Concord, the beginning of the American Revolution.

While the French had settled southern Illinois by 1699, and "Meillet's Village" by 1778, immigration to this area had been retarded. With the French quietly awaiting the outcome of the conflict, the soldiers of George Rogers Clark became the first native Americans to enter the Illinois country in numbers. It is probable that some remained here while others returned to Kentucky or Virginia to report the opportunities awaiting settlers in this region which was no longer a province of Spain, France or England.

At the close of the Revolution, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia each ceded their claims in this territory to the newly established government. Settlers then began to enter the region slowly, particularly Southerners from Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, most of them crossing the Wabash at Vincennes and settling in the southern part of the future state of Illinois. One important reason our section was not settled was because the Indians had not been included in the treaty of peace signed between Great Britain and the colonies. Some tribes were still influenced by British gold and remained their allies. This hostility finally resulted in nearly two thousand men, women and

children being massacred or carried into captivity in Kentucky alone between the years 1783 and 1790. In 1791 a large body of militia with the addition of 2,000 soldiers under General St. Clair marched toward the Wabash River, but on a tributary stream they were met by the Indian chief Little Turtle with 1,500 warriors in a midnight surprise attack and were badly beaten.

Another attack led by General Wayne in 1794 carried on a relentless campaign against the Indians, defeating them at Fallen Timbers and a mutual peace agreement was concluded in 1795. After this, immigration into southern Illinois came slowly. Then came other Indian uprisings led by Tecumseh and his brother the Prophet, and outrages and injuries inflicted by Great Britain upon the Americans led to the War of 1812. For two years this made it impossible for families to leave the security of their old homes for a newer and more sparsely settled land, although it was over 140 years since Marquette wrote so glowingly of the bountiful land of the Illinois. These events of history deterred a much earlier settling of our state.

Indian uprisings and pirates on the Mississippi having been subdued, work began on the Cumberland Road and the Erie Canal, two main arteries of travel. Reports were heard of other canals from the Ohio River to the Great Lakes, and of new stage coach lines, steamboat schedules and railroad planning.

In 1826 an adventurer returned to his home in Overton County, Tennessee, and made a glowing report of the new state of Illinois. William McCord, Sr., was one who heard him, and he made preparations to move his wife Jane McMurtry Armstrong and their eight children to the Prairie State. Because this pioneer migration closely follows a pattern of a hundred other such trips, it is told in some detail from the Thomas McCord records, *Chapman Brothers Biographical Album and the Past and Present of Woodford County*.

With five neighboring families, the McCords left their southern home on June 7, 1827. After tearful farewells they left in their tightly packed wagons, in which the women and children rode while the men and older sons trudged behind to attend to the cattle they brought. In a few days it began raining, and this bad weather continued for most of the fifty-three days they were on their way.

The crossing of the wagons over the ferry at Vincennes was accomplished without difficulty, but the cattle persisted in jumping off and swimming back to the Indiana shore. Thomas McCord, then eighteen, swam the river eleven times before the cattle were finally on the Illinois shore. There were other streams such as the Sangamon where they had to set about chopping trees and building rafts, lashing the logs together with the bed cord to affect a crossing. This meant a full day of work, chaining the rear wagon wheels, steering the raft, swimming the horses across and getting settled for meal and the nights encampment on the opposite shore.

After this trying journey in much rain, they stopped in the little settlement of Twin Grove, a few miles west of Blooming Grove, now Bloomington. Here they built a cabin with puncheon floors and remained three years. Thomas said the only settlements were in the groves, and the only mill for miles was a corn cracker at Twin Grove which was operated by horse power. In March, 1831, the McCord family moved north to the upper Panther Creek settlement in Greene Township where their cousins the Patricks had located. They probably forded the Mackinaw at Dixons or the Mackinaw Dells ford then used by the travelers on the Wabash-Fort Clark Indian trail. William McCord made a claim for land, which when surveyed, was the northeast quarter of Section nineteen in Greene Township, entering his claim at the Danville land office.

William built a log cabin with the help of his sons which was still standing in 1889 along with a little blacksmith shop he built later. These were then in an old orchard planted by Mr. McCord. The cabin was

twenty feet square and one and a half stories high, the lower and upper portions consisting of a single room. It was built of small round logs 'chinked' with smaller pieces of wood and daubed with mortar. There were two doors and two windows, the latter consisting of four panes of eight by ten inches each. The chimney was built of sods, one on top of another to the proper height. (*Le Baron.*)

This became the home of ten, possibly thirteen people, as the McCord family finally had eleven children. Years later the son Thomas McCord was asked what he could tell about pioneer living; he stated he knew everything there was to know about it. He could even recall the weird and dismal sound of the howling packs of prairie wolves in the still of a lonely night.

On reaching the upper Panther Creek Grove, the McCords found Amasa Stout and his wife Susannah had lived there for three years, the settlement's oldest residents. The land was unsurveyed, so at first no one entered any land claims. The Stouts had seen two bitter winters; their first in 1828-29, when they lived in a rail pen, protected on three sides with an ample layer of corn fodder. The second was the one just passed, which the McCords also experienced at Twin Grove, the winter of the deep snows. This original Stout pen was located near the west line of the northwest quarter of Section nineteen, also the west line of Greene Township. After living upon their farm for about eight years, Stout finally patented it under date of June 13, 1836, and immediately sold it to B. J. Radford, Sr., the father of the author of Woodford County's first history. They then moved south to Dry Grove.

The families who preceded the McCords to the Greene Township settlement were William, Allen and Eliza, Winslow and Almira, and Eli and Mary Amanda Patrick; Young Bilbrey and his wife, Amanda Patrick, and the Stouts. All except the latter were related. The

Patricks had arrived in 1829 and Bilbrey in 1830. The William Patricks also built a pen shelter like the Stouts, and lived in it until the sons had cleared ten acres of ground; then they built a cabin.

The pioneer group found the Kickapoo and Delaware Indians living on the upper Mackinaw, with about eighty warriors and their papooses, ponies and dogs. The Potawatomi were on Six Mile Creek west of Hudson and numbered about 550. All of these tribesmen hunted and fished occasionally along Panther Creek, and many ventured into the little settlement of white men. At the close of the Black Hawk War, General William Clark, the Indian superintendent at St. Louis, moved them all west of the Mississippi. The Kickapoos were under Chief Kannekuk, and the sub-Chief Machina who was something of a musician. While the settlers were relieved to have the Indians moved west, they had generally found them a friendly and curious lot. They loved to examine the white man's possessions, and sometimes could not resist carrying them away.

The first white child in the area was born to Young and Amanda Bilbrey in 1831. On May 5, 1832, Thomas McCord and Allen Patrick left for service in the war. In a short time this little settlement had buried two of their young men, William and Winslow Patrick, the latter killed in a logging accident. Both were buried without ceremony but with genuine grief, near the old saw mill, and the spot became the Gabetown Cemetery, sometimes called the Carroll Cemetery.

The snow had started to fall in December of 1830, and it continued over most of Illinois until it was piled four feet deep on the level, and it remained on the ground until the spring of 1831. Wild animals and fowl came as though tame to the cabins in the hope of getting food, which aided the settlers to have plenty of meat during this period of complete isolation.

In the fall of 1834, John Armstrong, a native of Mercer County, Kentucky, and his wife, the former Elizabeth M. Garrett, came to the Panther Creek Grove and settled on Section thirty-four where his great grandson Wayne Armstrong now resides. Stephen Armstrong, one of the ten children of John and Elizabeth, settled on Sections twenty-seven and thirty-four; his grandson Curtis Armstrong resides today on Section twenty-seven. There are a number of descendants of John and Elizabeth Armstrong still living in Greene Township, the oldest family to continuously reside there. The Armstrong family has owned some of this land continuously since the day it was patented, 120 years ago.

The site of the upper Panther Creek Grove settlement is still beautiful, although old residents remark that the grove was once covered with much heavier timber. To see this grove, one may follow the road on the west side of Secor northward to the old Metamora Road; turn left, and on the south side of the road you can easily see Panther Creek. By following the next road south from the church, which marks the Third Meridian, and going south of the creek not far from the road,

you will arrive at the location of the pen home of Amasa and Susannah Stout, first dwelling in our area. Continue on this road for a distance just over two miles, turn left and go east and northeast two miles, and before you cross the Panther Creek bridge you can see the old cemetery a hundred yards to the north. At its northeast corner lived James and Mary Carroll in the Gabetown settlement. If you continue on east and then south and east through Section thirty-four, you have followed the general location of these early cabins on upper Panther Creek.

The Palestine Township pioneers also settled along the streams for wood and water. They built their cabins along the lower Panther Creek and in the Mackinaw timber, near where the creek flows into that river. These settlers were in what became southwestern Palestine and northern Kansas Townships.

The little town of Bowling Green is described elsewhere in this work. On November 6, 1836, John G. Mohr came to the north half of Section three where he built his cabin and reared ten children. He was the first settler in northern Palestine, and his great grandson Clyde Mohr still lives here. The next year Allen and Lucy Willis Hart moved up from near Hudson and built on the south line of Section twenty-seven, the same year Ephraim and Elizabeth Hedrick Potter settled on Section twenty-one. The next spring John and Margaret Shepard Van Scyoc and their son Anderson built their cabin on Section twenty-eight.

While these settlers were not too far from the mill and the stores of Gabetown and Bowling Green, one can only wonder where those early shopkeepers found the merchandise they carried in stock. Peoria, or Fort Clark, had been rebuilt in 1814 and Bloomington was building its first store buildings in 1831. Did these early merchants get such items as knitting needles, spinning wheels and axes from flat boats at Peoria and Pekin, or were their stocks homemade tools, homespun cloth, knitted mittens, homemade maple sugar, handmade plows and cradles? One can only guess. Farther south in the old towns such as Jacksonville, Springfield and Quincy, some articles of merchandise were available, but in the newer settlements for miles around our area it would seem many supplies must have been purchased wholesale elsewhere and shipped to our more inland towns.

Until 1859 Kansas Township was a part of Palestine. Her pioneer settlers, Samuel and Robert Phillips, came in 1828, the same year as the Stouts. They were relatives of the McCords and possibly of the Patricks, most of whom had stopped a year or two in the groves of McLean County. Other early arrivals in Kansas Township included Samuel Kirkpatrick, Sr., who came to the county in 1831 and to White Oak Grove in 1832, Lewis Stephens who arrived the same year, and John, William and James Benson who came in 1831 or 1832. Zachary Brown and his wife Elizabeth came up from Tennessee in 1831, and

Abraham and Mary Carlock arrived in 1833 with Reuben and Amy Carlock following the next year.

One Kansas Township pioneer of especial interest arrived in 1829 according to his descendant's records, although some histories say it was in 1833. He was Thomas Dixon of Winchester, Virginia, who brought his sixteen year old bride Permelia Radcliff to Dry Grove in McLean County in 1826 on their honeymoon. There they built a cabin and remained at least three years, moving in 1829 to the ford on the Mackinaw which still bears their name. This is only a few miles west of the Kappa location, but over the line in Kansas Township. There they built the second water-powered mill in our area, completing it



A TYPE OF MILL SUCH AS THE MOORES BUILT ON PANTHER CREEK.
(By courtesy of Kentucky Department of Publicity.)

just after the Moores finished theirs near Bowling Green. Thomas and Permelia Dixon's descendants still reside in and around Kappa.

William, John and David Hibbs each built cabins northeast of Kappa in 1835, the earliest in El Paso Township. Ralph Hibbs is today an El Paso resident. The family of John B. and Susan E. (Patton) Messer moved up from their 1828 cabin in Sugar Grove to a new one they built on their farm just east of the El Paso Township line in 1836. It is the Thomas Enright farm today. Thus the members of the Dixon, Armstrong and Hibbs families have continuously resided in the El

Paso community since before 1836, and are second only to the Bilbrey family in this respect. The Biggers, Mohrs, and Messers have been here since 1836.

The greater number of families arriving in the 1850's were really settlers, not pioneers, and they built their homes of lumber, not logs. They had reaped the benefits of railroad freight and travel by the summer of 1853, and had a Peoria rail connection by 1856. Crude though these trains may have been, they were a great boon to the country, and they also brought mail, newspapers and periodicals from the east with a frequency not possible before. Railroads brought better living for all those who had pioneered.

It is not enough to write that pioneer life was arduous. The real facts must not be dismissed with a one word description, though it implies much. Again, it must not be taken for granted that difficult conditions meant that these folks were a depressed and an unhappy people. There must have been those who loved adventure, and others who had the spirit to accept the rigorous life; then again, there were both men and women who were not made of the physical endurance which would withstand so demanding a life. The spirit with which they met such uncompromising demands was a personal thing, a very quality of soul. We have read that there were those who never faltered, who never complained, that there were both men and women whose patience endured. It cannot be decided who had the more difficult duties, the father or the mother, for there was endless labor for both.

The father first had to somehow secure money with which to buy a team and wagon. It took money to buy many of the bare necessities: an axe, a gun, blankets, kettles, extra clothing, jars of food, shawls, flints, axle grease, gunpowder, pails, ladles, hoes, shovels, and a rope for the well and the beds. These things would be needed and could be brought overland if coming by wagon train, but if one came on horseback the list was even more limited. Ida C. Hagman, economist of the University of Kentucky wrote that a century ago the average person had about seventy-two wants, of which sixteen were considered absolute necessities. Today ninety-four are considered minimum for the average person, though "today's buyer is faced with more than 32,000 articles from which to choose," all of which explains some of the changes since pioneer days.

These travelers had to think of every circumstance that might arise. If they were coming by flatboat how could they get their few possessions to the boat, and again from the boat to the place of settlement? In 1814 there was published and sold in Pittsburgh the eighth edition since 1801 of *The Navigator* with "directions for navigating the Monongahela, Allegheny, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers ... with description of their towns, villages, harbors, settlements and with maps." This compared with the Blue Book for early automobile travel and with today's road maps and guides.

Flatboats were usually about thirty to forty feet long and twelve feet wide and were frequently manned by the settlers themselves who often came in groups, unless their family was large and old enough to assist in the arduous and dangerous journey which would require weeks to complete. Later a class of men called keelmen built a larger boat with a cabin for passengers and a space set apart for freight and stock. These keel boats were steered by means of a long oar, sometimes thirty feet in length, while four large oars at the bow usually furnished the propelling power. A speed of five or six miles an hour was obtained going downstream, but it was a trying task for such a boat to stem the current of a river such as the Mississippi.

Often crews walked many weary miles along the shore and pulled the boat with a long rope or cordelle. When storms threatened the boat's safety, it was tied in some cove until it could proceed. In fair weather the cooking was usually done on the forward deck, as was the laundry which was hung on the decks to dry. The tubs were then hung on the outer wall of the cabin. If they were fortunate enough to have them, hams were hung on the shady side of the boat.

After 1850, most land buyers had to settle the land claim of some veteran of the War of 1812, who had been given a warrant establishing his prior right to it. All buyers had to go to the nearest land office, pay \$1.25 to \$2.00 an acre, and enter the land for taxes. In this area, it usually meant a trip to Danville, usually on horseback but sometimes on foot. Although the government established the survey system in the townships and sections, for smaller holdings an old system of metes and bounds was used, familiar to those from the mountain states. A description would give so many links and chains or rods from a place of beginning, usually a stone or large boulder or the so called "witness trees" established as markers for the surveys. Two high oaks on the John M. Bonar farm in Panola Township were used for years by surveyors as "witness trees." Charles C. Bonar had one of these cut down only a few years ago, and Mr. Davison, a long time surveyor of Woodford County, once pointed out the site of the second such guide tree. This method of survey often caused confusion and litigation if stones or trees were moved or destroyed.

After a pioneer had obtained land, building a cabin or a shelter was the first consideration. Several days of chopping trees of nearly the same height and size followed, the time involved depending on the number of men in the family or group. The logs were notched, a trench dug to correspond with the size of the cabin and to carry off rain, the notched logs fit in place, doors hung on leather hinges made of the skin of animals and dried perhaps on the pioneer journey, a large chimney and fireplace constructed, shingles were handmade for the roof, larger logs split for a puncheon floor, beds, benches, a table and shelves were made for furnishing the cabin. Bed ropes were stretched across the frames, and the bedticks were filled with corn husks or dried leaves. Their philosophy was that plenty of hard work

made a soft bed. Most of the men, if they had come overland, had often slept under the stars or under the wagons, so these new beds would be a luxury.

As soon as possible the men would dig a well and clear the land. To have ten acres cleared the first year was doing very well, for it was slow and tiring hand work, a far cry from the giant bulldozers that today wreck a timber so quickly and push it into piles. The pioneers had to split the logs, some for rail fencing and shelters for their stock, the rest was chopped into firewood and stacked into cords for the winter supply of fuel. If they arrived early enough, they planted some hills of corn, a process which was done entirely by hand after trees or prairie grass had been cleared from the ground. After the roots of the native grass were deep in the fall season it was usually burned off rather than cleared. The stem often grew nine feet high, and the grass itself to three feet, with strong, long and matted roots. For some years the pioneers preferred clearing timber ground upon which to plant their crops. They held to an old belief that "ground that won't grow trees isn't rich enough to grow crops." The prairie was believed to be no good; besides, it was wet, hard to drain, and remote from the other settlers.

The accidental prairie fire was a fearsome danger, but the plow was useless until the grass was cleared. Fires were sometimes set by lightning, and the flames would race over the ground many feet high with a roaring noise and rapidity that called for quick and forceful action. Usually the settlers set another fire which they could control to clear an area before the great fire would reach it. This was called "setting a back fire" or a "fire to meet a fire." Travelers often wrote of the fearful prairie electrical storms; the earliest such report in our area is the French account of a terrible evening and night storm that ended the thirty-six day siege of the Fox Indians at Arrowsmith on September 8, 1730. The winter blizzard, with no roads or fences to mark the way often meant a lost traveler in very great danger. Snakes abounded, with the one most feared the powerful prairie rattler. With cabins not too securely constructed and with no screens or netting for doors or windows, the possibility of an unwelcome visitor always existed.

Some settlers constructed wooden plows which could be used after the ground was cleared but these plows only cut two or three inches deep. Corn was planted by hand; when it was twelve inches high each hill had to be cultivated with the hoe. Everything had to be done the slow, hard and tiring way.

The mother of the family worked against every kind of difficulty and inconvenience, lifting armfuls of wood, pails of water and heavy cooking utensils. She had to climb fences, climb ladders to the attic or loft, and hang strings of fruit over the rafters to dry, or strings of pumpkin and herbs. As soon as the young sons and daughters could help they had often to perform tasks too heavy for youngsters. Pioneer mothers

in their old age often spoke regretfully of the hard work they had required of their oldest daughters, and of how the help of the older sons was as urgently needed. The daughter of one pioneer family mentioned the fact that most women were old at the age of forty and told of her own mother bearing a large family all without medical care, and doing her laundry by hand for all of them. They had only one well, which was between the pen for the stock and the cabin, so that every pail full had to be carried to each. The mother had to climb over the fence with the full pails for the cabin. This same daughter said "My mother was old at forty, and I really mean old."

Mr. Lewis Powell of Secor, whose mother's parents are buried in Gabetown or Carroll cemetery, said that his parents recalled with sadness the numbers of very young mothers who were buried there because they could not endure the hardships of pioneer life. Just as pitiful is the great proportion of children's graves. Women had to stoop for so much of their work, as over the heat of the fireplace where heavy kettles had to be hung or placed on trivets of different heights, for whatever degree of heat was required was regulated by such an arrangement or by hooks and chains. The baking oven was heated by putting coals inside, and the desired temperature was determined by how long one could hold their hand in the oven; if they could stand it until they could count to forty it was just right for baking bread. They then brushed out the coals and soot from the top and sides, and foods requiring the most heat were baked, following which foods needing a lower heat were cooked. Bread, meat and beans were baked in this order, though for several years the pioneer had no wheat bread until better and more improved mills were established.

The food problem was solved with the use of wild game. Deer, fish, wild turkeys, quail, squirrels, rabbits and prairie chickens were in plentiful supply as was wild honey and some wild fruit. They also had such vegetables as the Indians had taught them to use, squash, beans, turnips and corn in different forms, as meal in corn bread, mush, grits and roasting ears, or with beans for succotash, a special favorite which the Indians had made for years. They also taught the whites how to bake beans or corn on stones heated over coals. The pioneers made hominy by putting wood ashes in a barrel, then a layer of corn kernels, layer by layer almost filling the barrel, then pouring boiling water over the ashes to form a lye which ate the shell from the kernels. When ready the product was thoroughly rinsed and the hominy was beautifully white and delicious.

Pioneers found a use for everything. All the wood ashes were carefully saved, for they were also necessary to produce lye for soap making. The following account of the process, which to our efficient present day workers may seem tedious even to read, comes from an old cook book, *The Pocumtuc Housewife*, (1805). Their process for making soft soap demonstrates how tedious were many of their routine household chores.

First they had a barrel or container which they had to keep in a cave or place inaccessible to dogs or wild animals. In this they put all the refuse grease from cooking and butchering. As soon as a quantity of fat collected, the grease was cooked out and strained through a coarse linen cloth until considerable had accumulated. The lye was made by putting wood ashes into a barrel, probably a home-made one, which was set at a slight angle on stones or logs with a hole bored at the side and near the bottom. The recipe in the *Pocumtuc Housewife* reads

plug up the hole, then pour on enough water to wet the ashes thoroughly, but not enough to drip, and let stand for several days. Then pour on boiling water, unplug, and let drip into a pail or tub. If the lye is not strong enough, empty the wet ashes, fill the barrel with a fresh supply and proceed as before. The great Difficulty in making Soap is the want of Judgement of the Strength of the Lye. If your Lye will bear up an Egg or a Potato so you can see a piece of the Surface as big as a Ninepence it is just strong enough. If the grease had been kept rather too long, purify it by boiling in water in which a little salt has been added. When allowed to cool the pure fat will rise in a cake which must be allowed to dry before using. If the grease has become at all rancid then put the grease in a boiler or large kettle with three times its weight of water with a tablespoon of potash made from wood ashes. Stir, boil and strain through a cloth. It will take about six bushels of ashes and twenty four pounds of grease to make a barrel of soap. On soap day morning get breakfast out of the way early and plan an easy dinner. Swing the six pail kettle on the crane for the soap and a smaller one for the grease which should be put on to heat with some strong lye. As it dissolves dip it off into the big pot and add more lye and water. Boil and stir until it becomes thick and ropy. Too much lye will make it thin and the soap will eat your hands and clothes. Water will make it jelly but don't use too much or it will not keep. If it does not 'come' take out a little in a dish and try first water and then lye until it does thicken. Then add to the big pot whatever seems needed and boil again. When it comes, empty the big kettle and start again. Note: Making soap in the new of the moon may make no difference in its coming, but it certainly does no harm.

The next time the reader picks up a beautifully tinted, sweetly fragrant bar of hard milled toilet soap, he might hold it in his hand a second and think how it might have delighted some pioneer wife who had no time or means with which to be fastidious.

Lye from wood ashes was also used in a weak form for bleaching linen cloth. Wood ashes were used for a scouring powder and for washes or insecticides, for garden plants or flowers, but not for tomatoes which pioneers raised for ornamental effect only, never for eating as they were believed poisonous.

The spring and summer brought relief from living in such small and restricted cabins. Cooking could then be done outside the home and huge kettles of water could be heated over an open fire and the family wash done at least once a month. During the winter it was common practice to do the laundry only once in about three months; woolens would shrink, and there was no room for a lot of wet clothes in the cabin; neither could frozen clothes be brought inside in bitter cold

weather because the cabin was too hard to heat to allow it to be cooled by an ice cold wet wash.

Such cold and dampness might have meant more sore throats, croup, ague or various kinds of respiratory disease, for without doctors, nurses, hospitals or drug stores, illness meant home remedies made of medicinal plants and bark gathered and dried in the summer must be used. Albert E. Smith has related some of the remedies his own mother used. Dog fennel made a good poultice for sore throat; sulphur and molasses were effective as a throat swab; wild cherry bark syrup was used for a cough and onion syrup for colds. Also the following remedy found in a number of old "Health Hints" was widely used.

Make a syrup of dock root, thorough wort, yarrow, mullein, sarsaparilla, colts foot, spearmint, Mayweed, dandelion root and any other herbs you like. Boil down the water and add molasses to make a syrup. Put in brandy to keep. Make a good deal of this and make certain to give all the family a tablespoonful before breakfast as a preventative of Spring fevers.

Water poured over wood ashes and drained made an effective emetic; corn kernels heated thoroughly and then put in a small bag and wrapped in a warm woolen cloth were soothing for anyone suffering from toothache. There was much conversation about illness in those days. "Isn't it awful the sickness going around." There were epidemics of scarlet fever, diptheria and other diseases that sometimes stopped only after the most susceptible had succumbed. In some instances these epidemics proved fatal to as many as four and five children in one family. Wearing a bag of asafetida or carrying a buckeye or a rabbit foot had no potency against such a disaster. To hear of a case of smallpox or black diptheria brought feelings of helplessness and terror to any area in the middle of the last century.

Our pioneers and early settlers saved everything and found a use for herbs, plants and barks of trees for flavoring as well as for cures. Rose petals and rose geranium leaves were used for flavoring; hedge apples, walnut bark, roots and plants were found useful for dyes. Elderberry paste gave a fine shine to shoes and the liquid made ink for their quill pens. Different kinds of berries provided color for new and old cloth, for strips of old clothing, for braided rugs and bits of cloth for quilts. The women longed for color, for something pretty, and to make designs in their weaving.

Our present generation would marvel at the intricacies necessary to produce homespun cloth; first came the raising of the flax, picking out the short fibers needed to make a linen thread at the right stage of culture when the base of the stalk began to turn yellow about the first of July, and then preparing skeins for spinning and weaving. With all the homemade contraptions, hatchels, carder's reels and other devices with spinning wheels, which could be taken apart, sometimes a woman would jump on horseback in the early morning and with a baby on one arm and a flax wheel tied behind, would ride several

miles to a neighbors to spend the day spinning. A fine spinning wheel sold for a dollar and a clock-reel and a wool-wheel for two dollars.

Few persons now living have ever seen a woman hatchel flax or card tow, or

heard the buzzing of the foot wheel, or seen bunches of flaxen yarn hanging in the kitchen, or linen cloth whitening on the grass. The flax dresser with the shives, fibers and dirt of flax covering his garments and his face begrimed with flax dirt has disappeared. The noise of his brake and swingling knife has ended, and the boys no longer make bonfires of his swingling tow. The sound of the spinning wheel, the song of the spinner, and the snapping of the clock reel have ceased, the warping bars and quill wheel are gone, and the thwack of the loom is heard only in the factory. Alice Morse Earle, *Home Life in Colonial Days*. (1906).

The weaving of the cloth does not include the hours spent in knitting the wool yarn which was knitted often by the entire family, including father, boys and girls. A mother could not keep her family in mittens, hoods, hose, knitted suspenders and long scarfs worn by both men and women unless all helped, for mother had no idle time. Boys herding cattle and sheep took along knitting. One mother said when she saw her son sitting on a large stone watching the cattle grazing or listening for their bell, "If he can stone sit, he can knit." If father went fishing to aid the family food problem, he also could quietly employ his time with knitting. One large family in Panola Township as late as 1880 spent their evenings knitting; father, sons and daughters joined to help a tiny little mother who had so many to clothe and feed.

There was also the complicated art of candle dipping, though home-made candles were thought too expensive to use by our earliest pioneers. Another task was the growing of hops and the making of homemade yeast, and the method of keeping a starter. The father had to solve problems in keeping the seed, in caring for the stock, drainage, and problems of the harvesting. Corn was often left in the shock all winter and the hay or grasses piled in ricks. Did he hang the seed corn, the ears and husks, over the cabin rafters? Did he keep his tools and axes in the cabin? Did his wife scour the hoe with wood ashes and then use it in making a hoe cake? How much wood did he cut and pile to assure the blue smoke would curl out of his chimney all winter long?

Pioneers continued coming until by 1840 our area was settled by people from Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, Pennsylvania and a few shrewd Yankees from New England. With the Erie Canal open from Albany to Buffalo and the National Highway half across Illinois, a great immigration to the West started in large numbers, both by water and Conestoga wagons with their low curving beds, which kept their contents from sliding about. Their high, broad wheels were made to withstand mountain roads.

Periodicals and papers began to give the settlers much new and needed information. John S. Wright began mailing the prairie settlers a little paper he called *The Union Agriculturist and Western Prairie Farmer* with 2,500 copies of his first edition dated January, 1841. He bitterly assailed those who decried his "book farming" as reactionaries who were resisting change and improvement. The *Farmer's Almanack* had been published in the East since 1792 and gave valued hints on agriculture, with an article on the advantages of alfalfa as a legume published in its 1830 edition, a hundred years before the idea was firmly established.

The peddlers and traveling shoemakers and teachers of different degrees of qualification were coming to stay in a settlement for a month or through the winter. Priests, ministers, pastors and circuit riders were arriving to conduct religious meetings in homes and to encourage the early building of churches. These all brought news of the outside world.

As time passed into the middle and late forties, pioneers had their ways of fun with barn raisings, spelling bees, singing schools and quiltings. The men always enjoyed a game of quoits or a shooting match, things which seem very simple pleasures to us.

By 1850 the majority of the immigrants were coming from Germany, England and Ireland. Most of them landed in New York and reached



BY 1850 PIONEER HOMES WERE NO LONGER CABINS.
(By courtesy of the Kentucky Department of Publicity.)

the West after they had remained in the East long enough to earn sufficient money for their western trip. Some came by way of New Orleans and up the rivers to Peoria. There they usually lived and worked a while until they could buy the teams and wagons and other necessary articles for their homestead venture. After 1850 the people came with the idea of making this area a permanent home; they may well be called settlers and not pioneers, although in eastern Woodford County many did live as had the early pioneers in settling this unbroken ground. Soon they had close neighbors, received frequent mail, had new schools, churches and stores such as were unknown to the 1828-1850 pioneers.

By 1850 there were three more canals, two from Lake Erie to the Ohio River, and in our own state the Michigan Canal had been operating 120 miles west from Chicago for two years. There were a few dirt highways, and the prospect of railroads in the near future encouraged settlers to come by the scores. Many Woodford County settlers came through Zanesville and Brownsville, Ohio, then towns which had several inns to accommodate the migrants. Their papers described regular cavalcades of people in Conestogas and prairie schooners. Others came on horseback and some few walked. Such groups were passing daily through to Dayton and the West. Those who stopped at the inns for lodging found them generally pleasant places with plenty of food, but some inns had signs saying that they would not accommodate "waggoners."

More travelers were arriving daily by boat and highway in Chicago than the new hotels there could care for. That young town was rapidly becoming a transportation center with increasing demands for supplies for all these people wanting to settle in our state. If they had brought their own goods they needed wagons and teams to make the rest of their journey, if such could pull through the deep mud of the Chicago streets. Sometimes the heavy loads would be mired for hours. An insurance executive once pointed out a spot from his office window high up in the Insurance Building on Jackson Boulevard where less than a block away he had watched such a scene in his youth. Men pried and dug for hours to aid a double team to pull a heavy wagon out of the mud there, an experience that would be repeated again and again as they would move out onto the prairies.

With so many new settlers came opportunities for business and professional people. Money was being invested in new enterprises, doctors and lawyers were hanging up their signs although some of the latter were only "would-be" doctors since no state license was required until 1877. The new lawyer needed only about thirteen books: a copy of *Blackstone's Commentaries*, eleven *Illinois Reports* and one *Illinois Appellate Court Reports*. Lawyers today will use over a thousand.

Courts are no longer the source of entertainment they were in those days of oratorical ability, emotional appeal and native wit. Pioneers

liked to hear Lincoln because his stories and his wit delighted them. Once when reading some strong points in favor of his argument Lincoln read a little too far, and before he was aware of it the argument seemed to favor the other side. He paused a moment, and in a half-laughing, comical way, said "There, there, may it please the Court, I reckon I've scratched up a snake. But, as I'm in for it, I guess I'll read it through." With his matchless and ingenious manner he proceeded to win his case by convincing his hearers that it was not so much of a snake after all. Law cases today are factual and have lost these elements of public appeal.

Within a few years book agents swarmed over the country. Among several other works they sold numberless copies of *Our Family Physician*; *Legal Forms and the Law*, and *An Encyclopedia of Practical Information and Universal Formulary In One Volume*, which brought untold confidence and pleasure to many pioneers in their old age and which they often passed on with the admonition, "Never let this book get lost."

Following the bitter cold winter of 1855-56 the Peoria and Oquawka and the Illinois Central put an end to driving teams to Peoria and Chicago to deliver grain and buy coal and commodities such as stoves, iron hinges and other metal. Most of the cabins were replaced with larger frame homes, and there were more social activities which made life more pleasant.

New settlers frequently arrived without means. The father in one German family spent all but fifty cents for the cost of their travel, and this went for the iron nails to be used on the little home they planned. The people gradually had better clothing, a greater variety of food, with sugar, wheat flour and spices.

New neighbors were exchanging visits and recipes. If from Virginia they might caution to use only just a "smidgen" of certain ingredients; some called a pail a bucket, others a chest of drawers a bureau or a skillet a spider. Some had porches, some verandahs, or if from Maryland, stoops. Then there were mothers who made crullers, others who made fastnachts or doughnuts. With native Americans from the East, South and North and immigrants from Germany, England, Ireland and France, and others with Welsh, Swedish and Scotch forebears, even such a product as ham was prepared by each in their own way. The New Englander pickled his in a brine strong enough to float an egg; then they were dried and smoked with hardwood, probably maple, and corncobs. The Virginians rubbed the surface of their hams with salt, pepper, sugar and a little saltpeter daily for a considerable period; then they were ready for a long, cool smoking over hickory, applewood and oak, followed by several years of aging. They were piled one on another, giving them a flat appearance, the shape an indication of the slow cure. Those from Tennessee often used molasses, vinegar, peppercorns, herbs and spices in their curing, then smoking them in applewood and maple.

Ham prepared the Maryland way won an award in a display of hams in the state:

To every hundred pounds take best coarse salt, eight pounds, saltpeter, two ounces, brown sugar, two pounds, potash one and one-quarter ounces, and water, four gallons. Mix the above and let it stand in the tub some two days and pour the brine then over the meat. Let the hams remain six weeks in the brine and then dry several days before smoking, rub the meat with fine salt when it is packed down. *Dr. Chase's Family RECEIPT Book*, (1906).

The Pennsylvania Dutch cured their hams in brine; then they were given a bath in hard cider, dried and smoked with hardwood and sprinkled with spices, then completely covered with a thick layer of dough, sprinkled heavily with pepper to keep the flies away. The dough hardened and formed an air proof crust, and the hams were hung up to age slowly. The northwestern Pennsylvania hams owed their spicy taste to the use of sassafras smoke. Indianans used the Maryland recipe with more saltpeter, and for a quantity of twenty or thirty hams they added a gallon of molasses to the brine.

So it was that our early settlers cooked their food differently, spoke the language with different dialects and lived differently. To this day you can note some of these early influences, the long lanes of the Virginians, the overhanging barns of the Pennsylvania two story type like Eichelberger's; an old home with beautifully kept vegetable and flower garden on the side of the front lawn such as only German families arranged in such perfect order. Pennsylvanians from Greene County named Greene Township and many Germans settled El Paso Township. Englishmen settled in eastern El Paso and Panola Townships, with people from other states and countries as their neighbors. Despite the differences of nationalities, temperaments, speech, creeds and opportunities these families of an early day moulded into a fine community, uniting almost all these differences to form a democratic way of life.

Many of the material possessions of our forefathers have passed out of existence, but their story of determination and of human endurance in pioneer living is a challenge. Their vision, courage and faith is a lasting inheritance for us and for all their generations, a great and good legacy that will endure.

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CHAPTER 3.

Timber Towns That Died

BOWLING GREEN

John W. Griffin once said, "History doesn't happen between the covers of books, it is merely recorded there." Because of their history, the early 1800's were interesting years. Daniel Boone who blazed the Cumberland Road for pioneers to follow into the West, closed his eighty-five year old eyes on his last great adventure. Peter Cooper was receiving acclaim for his Tom Thumb locomotive, an invention that would mean much in the final development of our area. These practical men were thinking of building a country, leaving to Europe the artists like Franz Liszt, then amazing critics with his brilliance on the piano.

No account of our local grass roots settlements should dispense with the smaller places which, although weaklings, contributed bright pigments to the oils that helped paint the picture of frontier America. Regardless of size or significance, most pre-railroad towns had one characteristic in common: an affinity for woody terrain and flowing water. This is neither mystery nor mysterious. The early settlers, unfamiliar with the grain producing potential of the prairie, thought that soil capable of growing and sustaining trees must be the best for feeding the roots of agricultural crops.

The need for fuel and building material was vital, and the timberlands answered these two problems. The flowing water would operate their mill wheels, serve the animals and household and the stream would provide fish for the table. Nothing could be more desirable than the woods and streams with their abundance of wildlife and cooling shade for the hot summers.

Thus Bowling Green was established fourteen miles southwest of El Paso on a parcel of land now a part of the southwest corner of Section thirty-six in Palestine Township between the Mackinaw River on the south and Panther Creek on the north. It was begun about 1830 and reached its maximum growth in 1836 to 1838 when it enjoyed the reputation as the most thriving trading center in this region, a village of some forty buildings and almost three hundred inhabitants. It acquired this robust health because of its location astride the main trail

connecting the Bloomington and Clarksville settlements with Fort Clark, now Peoria. Like a magnet, Bowling Green drew visitors and customers from a wide area.

A surprisingly large volume of merchandise poured out from its business establishments. William Denman had the largest store and also operated his inn, the Denman House on the south side of the east-west roadway. It was about midway between Peoria and Bloomington, and Hanover, now Metamora, and Bloomington. Thus it was a convenient stopping place for the weary traveler, with the facilities for the horse and lodging and merchandise for its owner. True, the inn and stores were a far cry from today's, but they were modern for their times.

Although the history of Bowling Green may have begun officially when its plat was recorded in 1836, actually it was a thriving village by then. Mr. Charles Moore and his brothers had built their water powered mill in 1830 a mile to the northwest on Panther Creek. Mr. Francis M. Willis who came from Frankfort, Kentucky and settled in Walnut Grove in Cruger Township in 1829, soon moved over to the lower Panther Creek settlement, one of the first along with the Moores. He was the grandfather of Frank Davidson of the *Chicago Times*. Willis bought the Moore mill in 1831 and with characteristic impatience quickly added new machinery. Thus improved, the old "corn cracker" evolved into an efficient mill capable of grinding the newly introduced wheat as well as the familiar corn.

Indians still encamped upstream must have worried Uncle Frank by their habit of taking away things that were not too heavy to lift. These Indians lived by their hunting, fishing and selling trinkets, Attorney H. V. Graybill said Mr. W. B. Carlock had related. Mr. Carlock's father had traded corn meal and other foodstuffs to the Indians in return for beads to give to his family for birthday presents. The Indians were moved away before and after the Black Hawk war.

Frank Willis was an energetic and visionary man. For one thing, he saw the need for a centralized community. He bought a tract of land and planned the village which he named in honor of Bowling Green, Kentucky. Streets were laid out for nine blocks and eighty-one lots were provided for future building projects. He reserved a square for a public park. The north and south streets on each side of the park were named Springfield and Chicago streets. At the date of filing the plat for record Chicago was only three years old as a city. The streets passing the park in an east and west direction were named Danville and Peoria streets. For a quarter century, 1832 to 1858, Springfield street was the nerve center of this pioneer village.

Two Indiana born men, Aaron A. Richardson Sr., and his brother, James Madison Richardson were as energetic as Willis. They arrived in 1831 and have been credited with aiding Willis in staking off the town. At least we know from the record that Aaron added his Richard-

son addition to the original Willis plat. The brothers formed a partnership and opened a large general store in which they managed the short lived post office, short lived because most people got their mail at Washington. The Richardsons erected houses, and for thirteen years from 1839 to 1852 ran a mill that was above average for size, quality of work and volume of production. When the partnership was dissolved, Aaron moved to Bloomington where he opened a lumber yard. James moved to Secor, where he died in 1875. Mrs. Martha Pyle, a daughter of James M. Richardson once related how her uncle Aaron was once carrying the mail on horseback from the Walnut Grove settlement through a winter storm, and when he arrived at Bowling Green he was frozen to his saddle and was carried, saddle and all, into their store to thaw out. The Campbells of the Roxan post office also told a similar story.

Names like Allen Hart, William C. Moore, Charles Moore, Hollenback, Isaac Hayes, Swearington, David Butler, Jacob Butler, Samuel Arnold, Dan Gingerich, John Bliss, John Bowman, Adam Hinthorn, John Nitwine, the widow Long, Amos and Warren Watkins, James McCord and others are in the history of Bowling Green and the territory it served. Reuben Carlock was its first overseer of the poor when Woodford County was formed in 1841, and also on the first grand jury. Sylvester Pearl's name is repeatedly on local land records, and he probably dealt in real estate. He started McLean County's first pork packing establishment when Bowling Green was part of that county. Helen Hazelton was the town's first school teacher in a log cabin schoolhouse. One pioneer lady recalled attending that school which was closed about 1858; then she had to get across Panther Creek at the dam to attend the King school. Often the creek was so high this couldn't be done and she would be forced to miss school. "That's why we didn't learn much," she explained.

One of the most colorful of the rugged individualists who left deep imprints on the frontier settlement of Bowling Green was Uncle Jimmy Robeson, a God-fearing man from Hopkins County, Kentucky, who read his Bible assiduously and wasn't afraid to express his convictions from the pulpit. He ventured into the mercantile business, managing a store for four years. From 1836 to 1840 he ran a rooming and boarding house which in those days was called a tavern, but Uncle Jimmy was a preacher at heart. Old timers remembered his hard hitting sermons and his flowing white whiskers and sideburns that gave him the appearance of a man lifted bodily from the Old Testament. A sturdy physique and clean living enabled Mr. Robeson to become a nonagenarian; he died in 1888 and is buried in the Secor cemetery.

W. R. Willis was twenty-one years old when he came to Illinois from Virginia in 1834. He had a wide range of activities. Arriving first in Walnut Grove, he farmed and in two years moved to Washington and became a teamster. He then moved to the Panther Creek settle-

ment and soon into Bowling Green where he conducted a general store, ran a tavern and bought hogs which he drove to Peoria. His guests at the tavern included Asahel Gridley, Judge David Davis, Reverend Peter Cartwright, Judge Samuel Treat and Abraham Lincoln. By 1850 he was back on a farm and elected constable. When Kappa was founded, he moved there where he ran a hotel for three years. In the spring of 1857 he moved to El Paso and opened the Union House, sometimes called the Central House on the northwest corner of First and Cherry Streets, the first to open as a hotel. We know also that Willis worked for a time in the building of the Illinois Central railroad; just when he could have done that in his busy years we do not know. He finally was admitted to the bar and practiced law in El Paso.

Election day in Bowling Green was an occasion for celebration and heavy drinking. The traditional barrel of whiskey with its handy tin of cups or gourds was within easy reach of everyone. Whiskey was so plentiful that every shoe shop and tavern kept a supply. It retailed at about fifteen cents per gallon. Lincoln did not use it. In the 1846 campaign in which Peter Cartwright, pioneer Methodist preacher and Democrat ran against Lincoln for congress, the importance of Bowling Green as a battleground was recognized. Lincoln was against the annexation of Texas and the extension of slavery and in favor of a protective tariff, the sale of public lands at a low figure and a system of grants for river and harbor improvement. People came out from Peoria, Washington and Bloomington to hear the issues of the day debated. Despite the logic and fervor of Lincoln's talk, few in the crowd seemed sympathetic or convinced. The reason was that most of those listeners were members of the other political party. By clever strategy, however, the homely rail splitter gathered a sizable group into Hughes' blacksmith shop the following morning, and while perched on an anvil block told such humorous and forcible stories that he managed to win friends to his side of the issues.

The late Mrs. Robert Hitch of El Paso, who as fifteen year old Mary E. Ellis worked in the kitchen of the hotel operated by William Denman at Bowling Green, recalled Honest Abe as a man who didn't care too much about variety in his food so long as it was tasty and served in liberal quantities. For years she had some dishes from which she had on occasion served Lincoln at this Bowling Green tavern. One time he stopped over there and put up at the lodging house ran by John Bolliman. Completely exhausted from his trip he fell on the bed without bothering to remove his boots. The sharp eyed lady of the house found dirt on the bed spread and gave the shamefaced lawyer a scolding.

It was inevitable that the back country towns like Bowling Green should be hit hard when the Illinois Central and other rail lines came through other areas. Its decline could not be halted. A few buildings were moved away and some were dismantled to furnish material for

new buildings in other localities, while some were allowed to decay and fall to pieces. Long dead Versailles, our first county seat, Bowling Green's neighbor and bitter rival for that honor, met the same fate.

Today only a stone marker shows where the once flourishing village stood. Visitors might find if they searched carefully enough the splintered pilings of an old distillery. Some three dozen pioneers and their children sleep in the Bowling Green cemetery about a quarter mile north of where the town once stood, but it is now a tangled bramble patch with only three or four markers remaining to be read. One of these is that of Aaron A. Richardson, Sr., who died at the youthful age of forty-six.

Around these scenes of pioneer activity the steep wild hills still stretch out like couchant lions, and the seasons come and go with the same cosmic precision. Panther Creek and the Mackinaw River continue on their centuries old courses, but Bowling Green is gone.

GABETOWN

Not quite so robust nor history flavored as Bowling Green but nevertheless playing a roll in the writing of history was Gabetown, located six miles northwest of El Paso. It was presumably named after Gabriel Wood, a lieutenant in the Civil War and a pioneer of uncertain origin who operated a store there and later moved to Mississippi. Others like the Pleasants family, say it was named for Gabe Gish, another storekeeper there when William H. Pleasants entered Greene Township land for taxes in 1854. Perhaps the two men with Gabe as their nickname made it certain the place would be called Gabetown.

Records indicate that there were a feed mill, a saw mill, a blacksmith shop and in course of time a total of three stores, for William Crosley and Isaac Hammers Sr. ran a store there also. With at least a half-dozen houses, Gabetown perhaps never had a population of over fifty. Walter Pleasants, who lived in El Paso for many years was born in Gabetown in 1858. Nearby settler William Williamson of Ohio, father of George Williamson and Mrs. Della Kridner was often in Gabetown on shopping trips with his own father and mother, Mathias and Amy Williamson. He often spoke of the recreational activities there on Saturdays when men of keen eyes and steady nerves sighted down the long barrels of muzzle loading rifles, enjoying nothing quite so much as a spirited shooting match with a little harmless wager on the side. Wrestling was another popular sport in those rough and tumble days. Hunting and trapping were time honored diversions for outdoor men and were indulged in both for business and pleasure. This focused attention on Gabetown as a good place to sell and trade furs.

The homes and business establishments of Gabetown were atop Panther Creek's high west bluff, while the mills were on the stream bank where the dam backed up the water to provide power. The little cemetery in which the Patrick boys were the first to be buried was just

at the south edge of the village, and for years carried the name Carroll Cemetery because James and Mary Carroll lived only a few yards north of it. James Carroll was a hard working citizen and drove his ox team to haul logs to his sawmill. Like others of his day who had inadequate medical service when epidemics swept through the land, he felt the cruel blows of death-dealing misfortune. He lost one infant six months old, two died at the age of one year, another reached seven, while still another survived until he reached the age of ten. It is no wonder the settlers called it the Carroll Cemetery. The Legion's graves registration service was probably in error in listing it as the Hammers-Damman Cemetery on its list.

Another Gabetown character was Jacob Lahr, a blacksmith who could very well have been the counterpart of Longfellow's muscled hero. It is said the farmers desperately needed a craftsman of his skill and enticed him to move out of Peoria to Gabetown by offering to buy him an anvil. Business was good, but it did not prevent Lahr from



REPLICA OF AN EARLY BLACKSMITH SHOP.
(By courtesy of Kentucky Department of Publicity.)

moving into Secor in 1856, then a tiny place located on the new Peoria and Oquawka railroad line. There he opened another shop and built one of Secor's early homes.

With the railroads exerting this pressure, Gabetown was virtually squeezed out of existence. The Hammers-Crosley store was moved bodily into Panola. Others also moved and some buildings fell into decay and ruin. If you visit the site of Gabetown today you will find little to offer any clues except the weed-crowded markers in the silent cemetery with names and dates of many pioneers. You'll encounter the Armstrong name often and you'll see the resting place of Edward Fitz Patrick, our areas only Revolutionary War veteran grave. Some vandal took the beautiful D.A.R. marker from it between 1941 and 1946. Ed was the great-great-grandfather of Gladys Bilbrey Punke and George Forrest Bilbrey. Pioneer John Armstrong was a soldier in the War of 1812 and William Betz served in the Civil War, an unusual combination of veteran service for that day. Other names on markers in the Gabetown Cemetery include Hammers, Arnold, McCord, Magarity, Bolin, Mixter, Dye, Harvey, Patton, Baringer, Ray, Stine and Van Alstine.

Near the southeast corner of this little cemetery towers an ancient oak, an old man among trees that must be over a hundred years old. You don't have to be a Joyce Kilmer to appreciate this venerable giant, to stand and wonder what all it has seen or to speculate on what it could tell. But trees don't talk except to one another, and the secrets they hold will never be told to folks who write history books. So the story of Gabetown, fragmentary and incomplete must forever remain that way. It is one more timber town that died.

POKETOWN

Located in Olio Township a mile west of the well-known Centennial Church and some five miles south of Secor is the site of the little village that bore the nickname of the man who started it, Poke Burger. It once boasted a school, one merchandise-packed general store, and two blacksmith shops. Lewis Williamson of Secor, who worked in the El Paso Illinois Central freight house for many years, once taught school there. As walking was the cheapest and most healthful form of locomotion, he relied upon his feet in traveling back and forth. While there were husky boys in the school, this friendly and mild-mannered teacher won their respect perhaps because he was also a clever boxer and wrestler.

Thomas Trunnell, John Sadler's grandfather, Billy Patterson and Ephriam Yerion lived near Poketown and did their trading at its store. In fact, Mr. Yerion ran it for a time as did Poke Burger. It was customary for the merchant to gather the eggs, butter, poultry and other farm produce brought in, load it into the light canvas covered vehicle colloquially known as a hustable wagon, and take the load to Bloomington once or twice a week where it was exchanged for fast-selling items needed for the retail trade.

Poketown's two blacksmiths were John Yank Lahr and Andy Liddy. The latter couldn't resist the siren call of the great west, so he moved to Kansas where he amassed a fortune.

SLABTOWN

Where did the name Slabtown come from? The question happens to have a plausible answer. An old man ran a store there, the first and only one. It was really a cabin that housed a small stock of goods. To keep it warm in winter and dry during rainstorms, the owner, whose name has been lost, weatherboarded it with slabs from a nearby saw-mill. This store and mill stood just about where Mackinaw Dells stands today.

FARNISVILLE

This early settlement, sometimes spelled Farneysville, was on the south side of the Mackinaw River in Montgomery Township, as was its neighbor Slabtown on the opposite side. It was named after the Farni family who owned the land. There was a mill built in 1835 by Joseph Gingerich and Christian Farni, the first in that immediate neighborhood. Since Farnisville lacked a distillery, a St. Louis firm, Carey and Butkin, decided in 1847 to place one in that thirsty community, and they added a grist mill to grind their own grain.

By 1850 there was a store which the Minor Brothers operated, and a second store was then opened by Frederick Niergarth. A post office lasted only about five years.

These timber towns served the needs of our community when it was very young. They were on the transportation routes of that day, but they could not survive when these early trails went out of existence with the coming of the railroad and the establishment of a fixed system of roads on the square mile boundaries of the newly surveyed land out on the prairies. The competition of the new towns on the rails was too much and the inhabitants of these old towns knew it. It was no use to resist what in that day was modern change. The timber towns died.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

Data used in this chapter is from the *El Paso Journal* of July 13, 1889, and from a number of conversations and old letters. Helpful has been the Wm. LeBaron Jr. & Co. Publication of 1878, *The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois*.

CHAPTER 4

Railroads and Founding Fathers

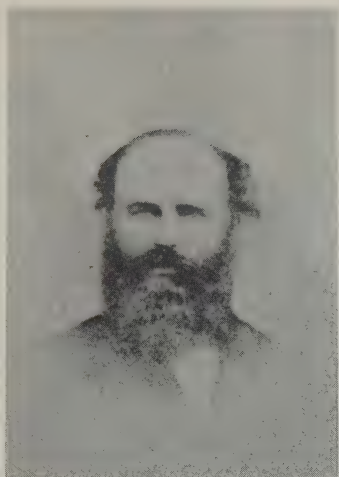
The founding of El Paso, Illinois was a cold business venture, totally lacking in romance or thought of future history. It was wholly in keeping with the land boom of that decade, caused by the new railroads piercing our wide prairie grass plains.

Sites for the new towns were being staked off every seven or eight miles along each right-of-way, with quick profits in sight. Thus the Illinois Central, built largely from grants of land in alternating sections, established the towns of Minonk, Panola, and Kappa in that order as their rails pushed southward from the Illinois River at La-Salle toward Bloomington in 1852 and 1853. Nothing but prairie grass and one tiny cottonwood sprout stood on the future site of El Paso. How then did it happen that a town grew here, on a spot not selected for one by the Central?¹

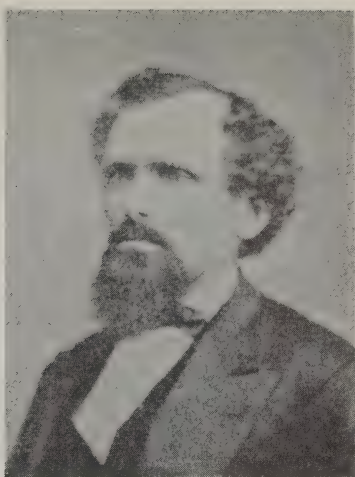
In midsummer of 1852, two young business men of Washington, Illinois, then a railless village east of Peoria, noticed there was still an unentered half section of land east of their home town, through which surveyor's stakes had been driven for the two-hundred foot right-of-way of the newly chartered Illinois Central Railroad Company. They conceived the idea of patenting these two adjoining quarters and then plotting a town site, hoping they could induce the proposed eastern extension of the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad to cross the Central over their land. They visioned fine profits if they succeeded; if they failed they would still own the land which was certain to increase in value because of its proximity to the railroad. Harry D. Cook, later of Kappa, had the same idea when he staked off his town of Oneida two miles north of Hudson and put in his bid for the same rail crossing, a bid that failed.

George L. Gibson had made the gold rush trip overland to California in 1849 with John Tucker, an adventurer whose wife's brother was a tight-fisted and shrewd thirty-six-year-old bachelor named James H. Wathen. Gibson, then thirty-three, found no gold, but he gained a pioneering spirit that acknowledged the need for railroads in a country so vast as he found this one to be.

Visiting their site, Wathen and Gibson found the level quarter sections with the Central's survey stakes almost tracing the dividing line on a slight angle from true north and south, but entirely within the



JAMES H. WATHEN.



GEORGE L. GIBSON.

FOUNDERS OF EL PASO.

west quarter. Unused township roads were on the east, west and south sides. The flat surface would make railroad building economical. Gibson chose the east quarter without a tree upon it; Wathen took the west quarter where the little cottonwood sprouted unnoticed about the center of the south half.² The land was described on the new plats as the south half of Section 5, Township 26 North, Range 2 East of the Third Principal Meridian.

Records of the land office showed the two promoters that four soldiers of the War of 1812 had a prior right to patent the land should they care to do so and pay the first taxes;³ they had not done so and Wathen and Gibson purchased their releases.

There is usually a routine entry on the record following the soldier's name, stating: "with evidence that the same has been duly located upon the above described land." Actually, almost none of these soldiers ever saw the land they were entitled to own.⁴ Some came out west and tried to find it and gave up in disgust as they viewed the limitless prairie. They usually signed away their rights to this worthless western land for a saddle or a gun; rarely was the eighty acres assigned to a land speculator or homesteader for as much as a good riding horse.

Wathen, although usually nicknamed the Major, had no war service. He got a clear and valid assignment from former soldiers Brumfield and Wells, but Gibson ran into trouble on the land assigned him by old militiamen Davis and Sadler, and had to pay \$300 to get a warranty deed from Samuel and Mary Camp of Marshall County on March 7, 1854, to clear his title.⁵ The Camps were not homesteaders, and lived in Henry, where Gibson had his lumber business.

Wathen and Gibson entered their quarters for taxation on August 31 and September 18, 1852, and the patents came to them from President Franklin Pierce on May 5 and April 15 respectively, in 1853. What had caused our two founders to press their patents to such quick conclusion in those days of slow transportation?

On June 22, 1852, the Illinois Legislature had passed an act which provided in its ninth section that the "Peoria and Oquawka Railroad Company is hereby authorized to continue said railroad from Peoria eastward on the most eligible route, to a point on the Indiana line which shall not be more than twenty miles north or south of a due east and west line that would run through La Fayette, Indiana."⁶

A supplemental act dated February 8, 1853, revised this wording to read forty miles instead of the original twenty, showing that the route then being considered did not come within the twenty mile limitation. There is evidence that the Peoria and Oquawka people originally planned a southerly route through Bloomington, Champaign and Danville; a point east of there would have qualified without the supplemental act. On May 14, 1853, powerful Bloomington interests were meeting there to organize a Mississippi and Wabash Railroad Company over this route, headed by James Allin, founder of Bloomington, K. H. Fell, David Davis, Isaac Funk and Asahel Gridley and others too important politically for even a Peoria group to fight. So the Peoria men changed their effort to the line we now have, apparently taking over from still another group planning a Logansport and Pacific Railroad Company being organized in Indiana to run interstate through Peoria and westward. The Indiana group planned to "cross the Illinois Central a little south of Panola, Illinois."⁷

Our land promoters, Wathen and Gibson, knew a man in Peoria named Charles E. Denison who seemed to be on the inside in these railroad matters, and there is no doubt they obtained some confidential information from him for a consideration of benefit to him and the railroad. On April 20, 1854, Woodford County Surveyor C. H. Chitty had their original town plat ready for filing; lest they tip their hand to rivals, including Harry D. Cook and his proposed town of Oneida north of Hudson, they held up the recording until May 6, 1857.⁸ The Peoria and Oquawka was then completed to Chenoa and was using the 100 foot right-of-way they had platted on their map for it without cost to the railroad. Switch tracks called Y's gave the Peoria road connecting tracks with the Illinois Central; this Peoria outlet had been so valuable to the Central that it had bought stock in the Eastern Extension.

What is today called the Main Line of Mid-America made its first scheduled passenger run northward, passing Kappa at 8 A. M. on May 23, 1853, and Panola at 8:54 A. M. The engine and cars had been previously brought south from the Illinois River on a nonscheduled run. Allen Hart, the early Palestine Township settler, came into Kappa on this train, the first ever scheduled over the first fifty miles of rails



ILLINOIS CENTRAL LOCOMOTIVE NUMBER ONE, OR NUMBER TWO WHICH WAS A DUPLICATE, PULLED THE FIRST SCHEDULED TRAIN INTO KAPPA AND PANOLA, MAY 23, 1853. EL PASO DID NOT EXIST.
(By courtesy of the Illinois Central Railroad Co.)

of what became the vast Illinois Central Railroad System. There was an early Rock Island Railroad connection at La Salle with the Central, but in the construction work, rails and equipment for the latter had been largely shipped from far away Birmingham, England, by water and paid for mostly with Illinois Central stock. One boat loaded with precious rails was sunk off the mouth of the Mississippi, causing a delay in completing the road in accordance with charter terms.

Kappa, Panola and Oneida all learned too late what was happening in railroad affairs to match the sharp bidding of Wathen and Gibson for the new railroad crossing. They had no representative like Denison to favor them. Long before they brought any pressure, Denison told our town's promoters that he probably could influence the Peoria and Oquawka group to build the line over the free right-of-way offered, but that if he did this, he wanted a one-fourth interest in all the town lots they sold prior to the arrival of the railroad over their land. He pressed a point they already knew: that by using two slight curves in the line the rails could come in over Illinois Central land, Sections 6, 8, and 4 in turn, thus avoiding their own Section 5 completely. This would put the rails only one block south of where they are today. Wathen and Gibson didn't want that to happen, so they agreed to Denison's hard

bargain; he added gall and wormwood by making them sign a \$2,000 bond to guarantee they would properly pay over the one-fourth of the lot sale money. It seems Denison was acting for the rail group as an agent and not for himself in any unethical way. The contract and bond were signed June 20, 1854 and are a matter of record, detailed in many abstracts.

The two Washington men were delighted when construction of the Eastern Extension soon commenced, and they watched its tracks push through there and on to the east where construction stopped at a spot on the prairie in October, 1854, since named for the company's construction superintendent, William H. Cruger. Eastward and only three-fourths of a mile north were the stakes of the new town site, but the railroaders were already out of cash. There had been an authorized stock of \$400,000, and although the city of Peoria had liberally backed the venture, not enough had been subscribed and paid in. People at the end of the track donated the building of a little depot; Wathen and Gibson pushed lot sales, mindful of the cut due Denison for the benefit of the railroad. It was a venture in which everyone felt the need of cooperation. Money was borrowed where it could be found, and the Eastern Extension became heavily encumbered.

Thomas A. H. Smythe, construction agent for the contractors, Cruger, Secor & Company,⁹ finally got the work resumed in the summer of 1855, and on April 1, 1856, the last rails were being spiked down to make the junction with the three year old Illinois Central. Octave Chanute,¹⁰ twenty-three-year-old Frenchman and civil engineer in charge, used the free 100 foot right-of-way granted by Wathen and Gibson.

Denison thus completed his part of the bargain, and on April 4, 1856, Wathen paid him \$467.48 and Gibson \$701.22. The figures show lots had been sold or contracted for in an amount exceeding \$4,600. Denison and his wife then gave a quitclaim deed to any further interest in lot sales, but the rail group immediately appointed their President, George Clinton Bestor as agent to make a new deal.

It was important for both the railroad and the town organizers that the rails be continued on eastward, so there would be a crossing instead of a junction, terms by which the place was first known. That Denison and the rail group were allied may be inferred from the date of the new contract, April 5, 1856, one day after Denison was paid in full. This new contract was to become the basis for years of later court action between the railroad and Wathen and Gibson.

Sometime in 1855 or early 1856 George Bestor built what was probably the first building ever erected on a town lot. He almost immediately moved it south onto railroad ground near the earliest depot,¹¹ and brought in an old world refugee called the Count, who lived in it and also operated a little restaurant in it. A man named Ben Hazlett seems to have been the only other person there at that time; William Ostler's

diary indicating Hazlett was there first. He may have been our first railroad agent in addition to his restaurant job; the railroad records are lost. We do know the Central appointed Geo. H. Campbell agent in 1858 and that he was soon acting for the P. & O. also. The moving of the little building from "El Paso" onto the railroad ground south of today's Route 24, then "out of El Paso," began the argument between Wathen and Gibson on the one side and the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad and Count Chlopicki on the other. The latter insisted on calling the place Illinois Junction; his disgruntlement grew as El Paso prospered and the new Campbell House took away most of his business.



EL PASO'S FIRST STORE, BUILT BY THE JENKINS BROTHERS, 1856.

Meantime the first Peoria freight arrived from the east bank of the Illinois River pending the building of the bridge, and it carried the lumber for the Jenkins Brothers' store building which they erected in 1856 where the Rebbec Garage now stands at Front and Cherry streets. It was the first business building in El Paso. A block eastward, Thomas McClellan completed his home, the first in town, with David Hibbs a close second. Gibson completed a building across the street west of the Jenkin's building which he also intended for a store, but changed it into a hotel apparently as a concession to the three Jenkins brothers. He delayed its opening and completion because Wm. R. Willis was already operating a hotel one block to the north, and this was another business the town founder could not afford to antagonize.

Wathen was soon encountering similar problems in founding the town over on his west side.

Finally the growth of the place seemed assured, and with both Wathen and Gibson planning to move into it in 1857, the matter of a name came up. Bestor said it was about April 5, 1856, the date of signing the new contract. Many of the railroaders of that day had towns named for themselves by then, but there was none named Bestor due to his own neglect and busy life at Peoria. He offered Wathen and Gibson \$250 for the privilege of naming the town Bestor,¹² and the two founders turned him down.

"We'll call it Wathener," said James A.

"No we won't," replied his partner. "Since I can't name it Gibson or Gibson City, it's only fair that we select a neutral name."

The only thing they could agree upon was that it would not be named Bestor. They drew straws; Gibson won, and recalling his return from California through the Rio Grande pass of the north, he had surveyor Chitty print the word *El Paso* at the top of the town plat beside the date, April 20, 1854.¹³

The terms Junction and Crossing were forgotten and the Count's attempt to popularize the name Illinois Junction failed. By 1858 we find the *Chicago Press and Tribune* dispatch calling it *El Paso*; Cobden wrote it as *El passo* in his March, 1859 diary, and all the Civil War shipping and enlistments recorded the place by its present name. Front Street was built up during that war, all of it on the north side facing the new railroad from Peoria, the business houses extending for four blocks or more. Railroad Engineer Octave Chanute had the tracks completed to Chenoa on February 2, 1857, and to Gilman by September. Again there was a long delay because of finances, and the rails did not reach Effner until December 31, 1859, the final date specified in the charter. With the war, the *El Paso* interchange became important as military supplies came in to go south over the Illinois Central.

By 1862 Wathen and Gibson had paid the railroad the \$4,800 under their new contract on lot sales; then they refused any further payments as the agreement seemed to call for. With Thomas A. H. Smythe withdrawing, the rail group sued in the circuit court of 1863, demanding complete performance. This famous railroad case¹⁴ dragged on for many years with the Supreme Court of Illinois on April 18, 1870 upholding Judge S. L. Richmond's ruling at Metamora years before, by saying: "It is affirmed as to the dismissal of the original Bill, and modified as to the relief found on the Cross Bill." The cross bill had been filed in turn by Wathen and Gibson against the rail men; thus the supreme court actually found in favor of the two town promoters and against the railroad, then reorganized as the T. P. & W.

Although the suit was pending in court, we find Gibson deeding to the railroad on August 8, 1866, "the right to run its trains over and upon all that part of the southeast quarter of Section Five of Township

Twenty-six now occupied and used by the said company, with the privilege of putting in side-tracks on said land to a distance of 50 feet from the center of the main track now used by them." Mrs. Gibson was then living and joined in the deed,¹⁵ which made a matter of record that which had previously been mostly a verbal agreement.

Again, on February 28, 1879, after the supreme court decision, Gibson and Wathen jointly signed another deed to the T. P. & W. and included the Illinois Central, granting the railroads everything they were then using, but "for depot, grounds and railroad uses only." This applied only to ground owned by them to the south of the original P. & O. right-of-way inclusive, and extended all across Section 26. This last deed¹⁶ assigned an additional twenty-five feet outside the first Y tracks then used, on which they might construct a second track. The east Y had been doubletracked for several years; the west Y was doubled after 1869.

A town boom was under way during the war, and other adjoining land owners hastened to add to the original town in quick succession:

McClellan's Addition, May 17, 1864.

Hamilton's Addition, August 2, 1865.

Bestor & Bay's Addition, October 30, 1865. (not Geo. C. Bestor.)

Ferbrache's Addition, March 26, 1866.

Gibson's (first) Addition, April 30, 1866.

Neifing's Addition, January 30, 1867.

English's Addition, August 9, 1867.

Tyler's Addition, December 2, 1867.

Brown's Addition, January 7, 1868.

Wathen's Addition, June 4, 1868.

Gibson's (second) Addition, September 8, 1874.

Gibson's (third) Addition, July 5, 1913. (by heirs.)

Ben Hazlett, the Jenkins Brothers, John Hibbs, William C. Bayne, John and Eli Bennett, the McClellan families, Wilbur H. Boies, Ludwik Chlopicki, Wm. R. Willis, Handley King and possibly a few others were already citizens of El Paso before Wathen and Gibson moved to town in 1857. Wathen later built his fine home at 78 South Walnut Street, still in use as the Elms Motel and dining room. Gibson erected his fine mansion, now the center of Elmwood Court, a little later, living with the Isaac Jenkins family during its construction. It has long been known as the Hodgson Place because Ed Hodgson, a son-in-law, lived in it for many years. It is now the Cryer Apartments, and both it and the Wathen residence are kept in an excellent state of repair.

Mr. Gibson was born in Pennsylvania October 2, 1818, and came to Illinois with his parents in 1831, living in Washington, Wesley City and in Henry. He made several trips down the Mississippi as a flat-boater and trader when a young man, after leaving his father's farm three miles north of Peoria. He married Miss Matilda Health of Ohio on June 1, 1843, and after her death in El Paso in 1873 he lived with his daughter, May Fleming. The Gibson family consisted of the following children: William W. and George F. Gibson; Mrs. Sarah Nevada Here-



JAMES H. WATHEN'S HOME, NOW THE ELMS MOTEL.

ford, Mrs. Kate Hodgson and Mrs. May Fleming, wife of William Fleming. After his death she married her former brother-in-law, Albert E. Fleming, a survivor of the Chatsworth wreck who had the first news of that disaster telegraphed back to Peoria from the little Chatsworth railroad station still standing. He was a long time El Paso business man who was prominent in civic affairs. George L. Gibson served as the second Mayor of the town he and Wathen founded, and most of the city's fine trees were planted personally by him¹⁷ and his employee, Bernhard Sturm; the elms of Elmwood Court which yet arch that driveway are their work. Gibson died December 21, 1896 and was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery he helped plan; a reburial placed his remains in the mausoleum in 1909.

James H. Wathen was born in Bardstown, Kentucky, in 1816 and came to Illinois when he was nineteen. The man usually called Major never married. He died in 1902, one of the town's wealthiest citizens, and is buried along the Evergreen Cemetery's main drive with an appropriate monument. Like Gibson he served as Mayor of the town he



GEORGE L. GIBSON'S HOME, NOW THE CRYER APARTMENTS.

and Gibson founded. Gibson followed Mr. Joseph H. Moore who was the town's first mayor in 1867 after it was incorporated, and Wathen followed with his two terms in 1869 and 1870.

For four decades these two gentlemen lived and worked in the little city that was once only a figment of their imagination. Their field of waving prairie grass blossomed into paved streets lined with shade



EL PASO HAS PAVED STREETS, SHADE TREES AND FINE HOMES.

trees and fine homes, the center of some of the world's best corn land. It is fitting, we think, that a century later it should be known as the *Capital City of the Corn Belt*.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. We omit much about the building of the Illinois Central, recommending the book *Main Line of Mid-America* by Carlton J. Corliss, Creative Age Press, 1950, as this excellent work commemorated the 100th anniversary of the charter of that railroad, and it is available in the El Paso Public Library.
2. This cottonwood became the largest tree in El Paso. Robert G. Pierce took it down in 1946 to make way for his garage which now stands on the spot at the rear of his residence at 303 West First Street. When taken down we counted ninety-six rings on the radius of the stump.
3. They were Pvt. Willis S. Davis of Capt. Hubbard's Company, 5th Regiment of Virginia Militia; warrant No. 24,900 assigning him the east half of the southeast quarter; Corp. William H. Sadler of Capt. Felter's Company, 1st Regiment of Virginia Militia; warrant No. 38,412 assigning him the west half of the southeast quarter. (Vol. 4, pages 275 and 276, Misc. Land Grants.)
Pvt. Thomas Brumfield of Capt. Sower's Company, Virginia Volunteers; warrant No. 24,100 assigning him the east half of the southwest quarter; Pvt. Asa Wells of Capt. Bunn's and other Companies, with three separate services in the War of 1812 in Vermont Militia; warrant No. 40,028 assigning him the west half of the southwest quarter. (Vol. 66, pages 134 and 135, Misc. Land Grants.)
Many El Paso abstracts of title begin with the first entry waiving their prior rights to the land they assigned to Wathen and Gibson. Also see *Land Grants To Soldiers*, L. J. Freese and Milo Custer, 1913.
4. Upon authority of Edward J. Riley of the Woodford County Abstract Co., Eureka.
5. Deed Record H, page 104.
6. Letter from Mr. John E. Lundholm, former T. P. & W. attorney, quoting the acts. Other valued information is from Mr. David L. Keith of that railroad, and Mr. Frank M. Cruger, genealogist and descendent of one of its builders.
7. *Illinois As It Is*, by Fred Gerhardt, Keen & Lee, 1856. He describes the Peoria, Bloomington, Champaign and Danville route as being planned for the eastern extension of the Peoria and Oquawka. The western end had been planned in 1851 and built in the following two years, but is not the line they use today. It is operated by the C. B. and Q., and the present western line of the T. P. & W. was built after our eastern extension. These transfers were involved in the financial troubles. Old Bloomington papers show much railroad interest and activity of the Allin-Fell-Davis-Funk and Gridley group.
8. Deed record book J, pages 442-3. A copy appears in Original Town abstracts.
9. James Hurry and William F. Buckner had dropped out of the group, leaving William H. Cruger, Charles A. Secor, Thomas C. Fields, Thomas A. H. Smythe, Samuel Gilman, Peter Sweat, Arthur Leary and the president of that date, George Clinton Bestor. Rudolphus Rouse had been president on

December 1, 1853, and on March 11, 1857 N. B. Curtiss was signing papers as president.

Gilman and Leary were New York men, where most of that days railroad financing originated; Secor was from Toledo, Ohio, and no doubt got that city's name into the final title, although the road was chartered only in Illinois; Bestor was from St. Louis, and apparently knew Count Chlopicki there, where the latter ran a tavern (at that date an inn) at 30 Pine Street. Bestor was chagrined when his colleagues Secor, Cruger and Gilman had towns named for them and he had none.

10. Octave Chanute was born in Paris, France, February 18, 1832, and died November 23, 1910, being buried in Peoria's Springdale Cemetery. He is better known for his book, *Progress in Flying Machines* which he wrote in 1894, and for the valued technical advice he gave the Wrights prior to their Kitty Hawk flights than he is for his railroad building. His biggest memorials are Chanute Field at Rantoul, Illinois, and the city of Chanute, Kansas.

He came to America in 1838 and lived as a boy in Louisiana, moving to New York City in 1844 where he completed his education. He went to work helping the engineers of the New York and Albany Railroad when he was only seventeen. He came to Illinois in 1853 and helped build the Joliet-Bloomington line of the present day G. M. & O. Railroad, and from 1854 into 1861 he was the chief engineer of the eastern extension construction of the Peoria and Oquawka. He had been credited with much of the planning of the city of Fairbury in his spare time. He went with Ohio and Mississippi Railroad in 1862, reconstructing the line from St. Louis to Vincennes, and in 1863 became chief engineer of the Chicago and Alton, in charge of its maintenance and new construction.

He entered a competition for designing the Chicago Union Stockyards and won. Next he engineered the yards at Kansas City, Missouri, and then designed and constructed three bridges across the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. He then served ten years as chief engineer of the Erie Railroad. He later became the most important consulting engineer in Kansas City, Missouri.

(This is from information gathered by David L. Keith of the T. P. & W.)

11. From the testimony of James H. Wathen in the railroad suit and from the William Ostler diary describing the building. Bestor speaks of the Count living in his house, and of its use as a public place, in which he put a map.
12. This is Bestor's own testimony in the railroad case. He was a prominent Whig and Republican, a real estate man and a friend of Lincoln. He was of the group which secured Lincoln to speak in Peoria on October 16, 1854. Lincoln appointed Bestor postmaster of Peoria on May 27, 1861.

Bestor's Colleague Peter Sweat was just as prominent in the Democratic Party, and was serving as postmaster while the railroad was being built toward El Paso. It was Sweat who presided at the meeting in Peoria when John Calhoun, later a mayor of Springfield, spoke to the Democrats there on April 13, 1844. Lincoln was in court at Metamora, and as court adjourned on Saturday, he rode over to Peoria and listened to his friend Calhoun speak. Somehow, Lincoln's friends got him to make a thirty minute reply to Calhoun as the hour grew late. He is reported to have said that his fellow townsman John Calhoun "was a stronger political speaker than Judge Douglas."

13. The story of the naming of the town is from the story repeated by Bernhard Sturm and other early settlers who had heard Wathen and Gibson tell

it. The writer has an original manuscript written by May Gibson Fleming which she once read before the El Paso Woman's Club. She writes simply

The importance of a name arose. Neither man felt he could give up his right of choosing said name, so they settled the matter in a primitive manner by drawing straws. My father was the fortunate one, and he named it El Paso, a Spanish word meaning "The Pass."

Eugene Hodgson, Gibson's grandson still lives in Minonk, and he told the writer Mr. Gibson returned from the gold rush trip to California by the far southern route which took him through El Paso County in 1851, named only the year before. The Texas city of El Paso was first called Magoffinsville, then Franklin, and was not renamed El Paso until 1859, three years after the naming of El Paso, Illinois. The Texas city was platted February 28, 1859 by Gen. Anson Mills, was incorporated in 1873 as a town, and finally as a city in 1881. It was on Mill's recommendation that the change was made from Franklin to El Paso. We are indebted to Mr. Cleofas Calleros, historical writer of El Paso, Texas, who gave permission to use the above information from his several letters to us. Also see *Holiday Magazine*, December 1948, on El Paso, Texas.

14. Testimony in the old railroad case is interesting. Further testimony of Bestor's reads as follows:

At or about the time the contract was entered into (April 5, 1856) there was disagreement between Wathen and Gibson about naming the town. Wathen proposed to call it Wathener. Gibson wanted to call it El Paso. To settle the question, I proposed to call it Bestor (or) to put up the privilege of naming the town at auction with the proceeds to be expended for the benefit of the town. I offered to pay \$250 to name it. I made this proposition to Gibson, and he said he would communicate with Wathen and agree to it if he would.

I made six or seven plats like the one in evidence at my own expense. I posted one of them in the house I built at El Paso occupied by Count Chlopicki, and one in my own office, then a place of public business . . . and I gave one each to Wathen and Gibson.

The public squares, the church and school lots were made on this plat, and assented to by Wathen and Gibson, and were intended to be dedicated for that purpose.

But Gibson countered this with his testimony that

I never had any consultations with Bestor about his making the plats, and never consulted with him about donating lots. Bestor's plats were made from the surveyor's, which Wathen and I had previously made.

I first built on the property in question (El Paso, original town) in 1856 immediately after the completion of the P. & O. railroad to El Paso. I commenced the erection of a building designed for a store room; it was afterwards changed to a hotel. Count Chlopicki frequently said he did not live in El Paso but in Illinois Junction.

Wathen backed up Gibson's testimony by stating

I never authorized Bestor to make any plats. He looked over my own plats. Yes, I knew Count Chlopicki. He always abused the

town and said he did not live in El Paso but in Illinois Junction. So far as his influence went, it was against El Paso.

He then added a bit of pertinent information, saying

Bestor moved away the only house he ever built in El Paso.

Wathen and Gibson then brought up the argument that the railroad injured the town's growth by discriminatory freight rates, and they called George H. Campbell to the stand. He backed them up by testifying

I was agent for the Peoria and Oquawka for eight years. I was acquainted with the freight rates. There was no discrimination in favor of El Paso that I ever knew of. They always shipped cheaper from Peoria to Chicago than from El Paso to Chicago.

15. Deed record book W, page 16.

16. Deed record book 49, page 324.

17. From the writing of George R. Curtiss in his *El Paso Journal*. Curtiss was an authority on early El Paso, and we recommend the booklet he and Evans published in 1896 called the *El Paso Journal's Souvenir Edition*. Perhaps his most accurate research is summed up in a two page supplement to the *El Paso Journal* under the date of June 21, 1934 in which he republished the drawing entitled *El Paso City in 1869*. Although along in years, at that date he had a lifetime of facts in the files at his fingertips. Much of this history is from a search through every *El Paso Journal* still in existence. The Library board purchased these files in 1951 so that they would not be lost to posterity, and the obtaining of them led to the idea of this book.

CHAPTER 5

The Story of Ludwik Chlopicki

PART ONE—A Mysterious Old World Stranger.

The Count arrived in El Paso sometime in 1856, about the time the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad was completed from Peoria to the Illinois Central. If the Jenkins brothers and other early settlers ever knew his name they didn't use it. To them and to the visitors in the new prairie town, the elderly, out of place gentleman from Poland was known simply as the Count. Few believed he was really a nobleman.

Ludwik Chlopicki¹ aided in this mystery about himself by never talking of his past life or of relatives. Somehow, the pioneers sensed that they must not ask him questions that were personal. As the years went by they accepted him as the most polished and polite business man in the new village.

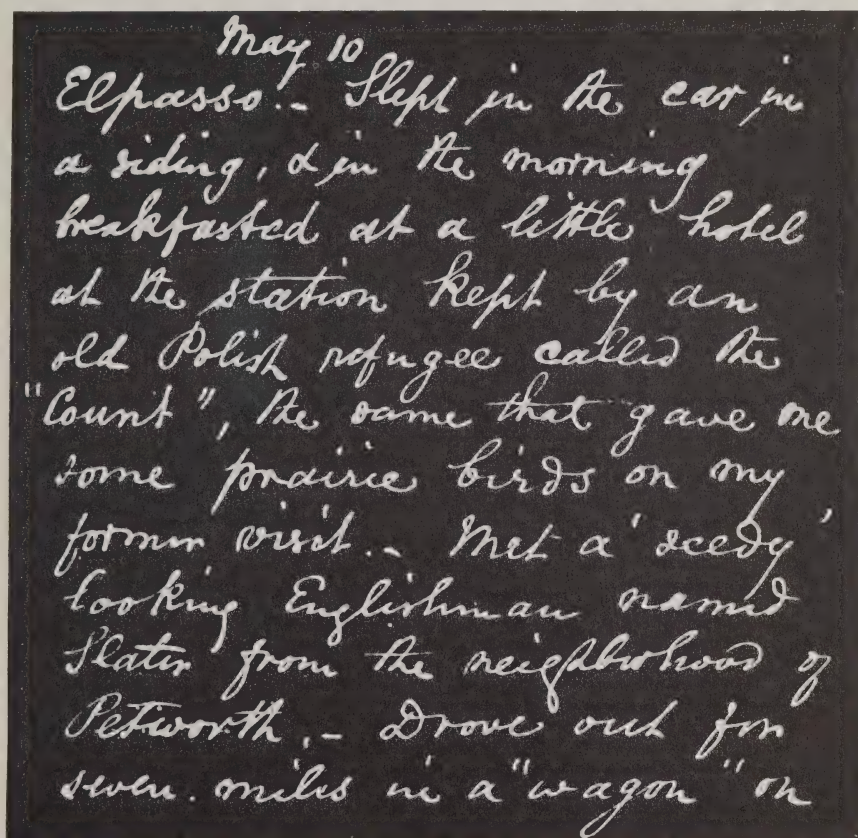
El Paso's first restaurant had been opened by Ben Hazlett in 1855 in a one story building² that was located on the township road, now Main Street, believed to have been located about twenty-five yards south of the present site of the El Paso Elevator Company's office. The new combined freight office and depot was just across the tracks west of that office.³ We soon find the Count in this restaurant, in which he lived and occasionally rented a spare room. It was owned by George C. Bestor of the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad, who had moved it from an unknown site to the north where it was originally built on Wathen or Gibson land, and it is believed it was at Bestor's suggestion the old Count moved into it.

The old world aristocrat was definitely out of place in a pioneer village with his perfect manners, foreign accent, and his reticence, but most of the settlers liked him and respected his peculiarities. Later exceptions were the town's two founders, Wathen and Gibson, who found him "for" Illinois Junction, as he called the area south of Main Street, and "against" El Paso, as the original town area to the north was named. He often entertained the Jenkins brothers and other new found friends with stylish type European dinners, where the table service, food and formal manners confounded some of the less tutored frontiersmen. None the less, it became a local honor to receive an invitation to what Isaac Jenkins called a dinner of state.

Strangers who stopped in early El Paso nearly all met the Count and many mentioned him afterward. Richard Cobden,⁴ famed British orator and leader in Parliament, twice mentioned him in his diary. Making an all day visit to El Paso on May 10, 1859, Cobden wrote that night, perhaps on one of the Count's tables,

May 10, (1859) Elpasso.⁵ Slept in the car on a siding, and in the morning breakfasted at a little hotel at the station kept by an old Polish refugee called the "Count", the same that gave me some prairie birds on my former visit.

This former visit had been made on March 23, 1859, and during the intervening weeks he had covered every foot of the Illinois Central's tracks so he might take back a report of its possibilities to British



May 10
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old Polish refugee called the
"Count", the same that gave me
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former visit. - Met a 'seedy'
looking Englishman named
Slater from the neighborhood of
Petersworth. - Drove out for
seven miles in a "wagon" on

investors who feared they had made an error in purchasing its stock. In surviving a financial crisis in 1857, the Illinois Central stock sagged heavily. Cobden had been one British backer whose confidence in the railroad and the area it served should still make us swell with pride, for he wrote to his friend Sir Joshua Walmsley in September of that year that

The Illinois Central stock will go up again to its former level, I have no doubt. It is not as a railroad investment that I regard so favorably this undertaking, but its value in my eyes depends on the landed estate which is the noblest domain ever transferred in one conveyance. Nothing but an earthquake or some other convulsion of nature can impair the value of 2,600,000 acres of the richest soil in the world, situated in the midst of the most industrious and intelligent population. The Wall Street bulls and bears will make no durable impression on such a property.⁶

Cobden was making his second visit over the line that spring of 1859, to gather facts for defending his position of two years before. Crops had been bad in 1858 but still no want of confidence is found in his diary, which continues on about his El Paso visit:

(I again) met the seedy looking Englishman named Slater⁷ from the neighborhood of Petworth. Drove out for seven miles in a "wagon" on the prairies to observe the progress of cultivation. Conversed with a man occupying eighty acres who sowed twenty-five acres of wheat last year from which he thrashed only thirty-five bushels. His corn had also failed; sickness fell upon him, and he was unable to collect hay enough for winter fodder for his yoke of bullocks which he exchanged for a pair of poor, small horses. His neighbors, who were strangers like himself recently settled in Illinois, refused to give him credit for some seed corn and he had not the money to pay for it. He worked at a farm house shelling corn 'till he had earned enough to buy some seed. His family suffered much from insufficient food during the winter.

Yet we found him turning the furrow with a resolute hand, and in answer to my remark that he did not seem to despair, he replied in a cheerful tone, "I mustn't lose hope for that is the only thing I have to live upon." This man's case is, I believe, that of many thousands of settlers in Illinois consequent on the bad harvest of last year. A good crop this year will set him on his legs.

Talked with another man at harrow⁸ who was cultivating a quarter section of 160 acres . . . for the proprietor, paying him one-third of the produce for rent.

On returning to Elpasso (I) found a telegram from Chicago announcing the commencement of the war between Austria and Sardinia, and which may probably lead to a general conflagration in Europe. So little has Europe advanced in intelligence in real self government that after an interval of sixty years we have another Buonaparte playing over again the game of his Uncle, disposing of men like pawns on a chess board, and millions of human beings giving themselves up to his will as tacitly as though they were a flock of sheep.

Three crowned heads can plunge 130 million of Russian, French and Austrians into deadly strife with each other with the same absolute will as that which Xerxes or Alexander swayed their hosts. And yet we are told that we live in an age of progress.

If I were a young man I would sever myself from the old world and plant myself here in the western region of the United States, where the "balance of

power'' is not an article of political faith, and where the voice of the people can be heard.

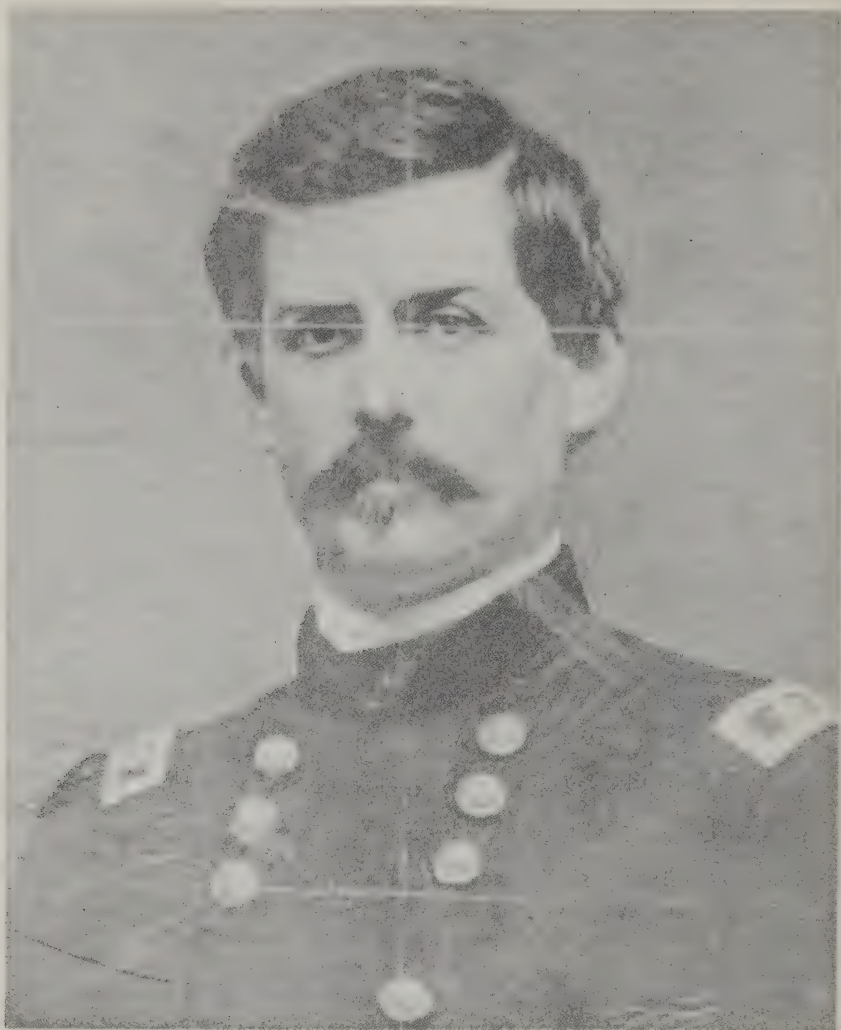
If Cobden penned those lines with the El Paso dateline on one of the Count's tables that evening, little did he realize that his quiet host knew more about European wars than he, or that the polite old innkeeper was a citizen of the United States by force of circumstances, having a difficult time at sixty-nine in making a living in that western region.

Chlopicki's business did make him a reasonable living through the Civil War days when there was much rail traffic and travel. In 1863, his friend George H. Campbell, the agent who had worked for five years in the nearby depot and freight office, completed his new and big Campbell House at the rail crossing just one block to the north. When the depot later moved there too, with it went most of the Count's business.

Old, tired and alone, he continued in his bad location. A few local friends called, but his business was very bad. He refused to move to Front Street in the Wathen and Gibson town, where four blocks were lined with new businesses which included three hotels and several restaurants. Poverty soon closed in and there were no more invitations given to his so-called dinners of state, yet no hint of distress came from the proud aristocrat.

In those last days when business was slack, he had much time for visiting with his callers, but he never mentioned European revolutions, wars or imprisonment. He did often talk about the famous visitors he had entertained right there in his little restaurant in the late 1850's. There had been William Henry Osborn, the president of the Illinois Central, and an ex-army captain named George Brinton McClellan⁹ who had been its chief engineer. He had been at the Count's place on several occasions and his last visit was on March 23, 1859 with Cobden.

There was that warm afternoon of Saturday, August 28, 1858, when Abraham Lincoln stepped off the 3:40 passenger train from the north, the day following his famous debate with the better known Senator Stephen A. Douglas. At that Freeport contest Lincoln had asked Douglas the four questions which probably cost him the senatorship, but possibly made him president two years later. Horace White of the *Chicago Press and Tribune*,¹⁰ today the *Chicago Tribune*, was along, and they all lunched at the Count's restaurant. Lincoln made a little talk to the "boys" who gathered at the little depot and shook many hands. He then boarded the 5:30 passenger to Peoria, from where he went on to Tremont for a speaking engagement on Monday. El Paso, like Woodford County, was then partial to the Democratic Party; Lincoln failed to carry our county in either 1860 or 1864, and Douglas men were in power in the 1858 senatorial campaign.



GEN. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN, GENERAL IN CHIEF OF THE UNION ARMY FROM NOVEMBER 1, 1861 TO MARCH 11, 1862. HE HAD BEEN AN EL PASO VISITOR SEVERAL TIMES WHEN WITH THE I.C.R.R. CO.

Lincoln was back in El Paso in July of 1859, but we have no record of any second visit at the Count's place. We do know that his family was with him, and so were many state and Illinois Central officials who were inspecting all of the Illinois Central on a leisurely nine day trip.¹¹ Lincoln had been again engaged as a Central attorney although in 1856 he had sued them for a \$5,000 fee. He carried a Central pass and rode their regular trains during the debates while Douglas usually was provided with a special car. Douglas had been

exceptionally important in the chartering of the Illinois Central and legal work connected with the construction, and as a Senator this courtesy seemed due him.

One morning in early 1869¹² a caller found the Count's body on the floor of his restaurant, fully clothed, but with not a cent on his person nor in the cash drawer. Townsmen searched for an early associate, suspecting foul play, and strangely enough this man was never seen again. Yet there was no mark of violence on the body, and not a thing seemed disturbed or out of place in the building.¹³ No one could be located who knew of a friend or relative closer than his friends in the new town on the prairie. Thus his death was perhaps more of a mystery than his life had been.

His body lay at William Neifing's undertaking establishment for two days. Then his old friend and admirer, William M. Jenkins, told



WILLIAM M. JENKINS. UNCLE BILLY WAS EL PASO'S FIRST
STORE KEEPER AND FIRST POSTMASTER.

Neifing to hold the funeral and place the grave on his lot in Evergreen Cemetery. This was done, and the necessary cash expenditures for burial clothes, casket, undertaker and livery were allowed in the April meeting of the county supervisors at Metamora. No titled rela-

tive knew of the passing of this old world refugee who was buried in the soil of his new found land of liberty.

A prayer was said, four friends lowered his casket with two straps, and they they stepped back respectfully. Someone asked how much any of the others knew about him. The sum total seemed to be that they knew he had been a leader of some exiled Poles; that he must have been in some kind of trouble about which he would never talk, and beyond that they could only wonder what the Count's story might be.

It was more than they ever dreamed of.

PART TWO.—A Fight For Freedom That Failed.

Ludwik Chlopicki was born in the city of Krasno, Poland, October 17, 1789,¹⁴ the son of Thaddeus and Catherine Chlopicki. Thaddeus was a brother of a famous soldier, General Jozsef Grzegorz Chlopicki,¹⁵ who became the Dictator of Poland in the early days of the 1830 Revolution against Russia in the fight for a free and independent Poland.

Ludwik was of the landed gentry and held the title of Baron, not Count, and he entered the army artillery and engineering corps in 1815. He occupied himself with mathematics and drawings, and because he spoke French, German and English in addition to his native language, he progressed rapidly. By 1817 he was a lieutenant, but because of his estate and family affairs, he applied for and received a discharge in 1820.

The fight to free Poland from Russian rule began November 29, 1830, with an attempt on the life of the Grand Duke Constantine, despot ruler and brother of Czar Nicholas I. Constantine escaped and fled, and the Polish Officer's Training Corps in Warsaw organized and gathered over 80,000 troops and 6,800 horses. It is probable Ludwick Chlopicki's part in the revolution was more political than military because of his uncle's high position and wide experience in European military and governmental circles. By the spring of 1831 we find Ludwik organizing infantry and cavalry units with Kurowski and Olszewski, and by May they joined Nagorniczewski's troops and took the city of Bar.

Powerful Russian armies soon forced their retreat under General Kolyski into Galicia. From there Ludwik Chlopicki, then a major in the Revolutionist cause, went through to Warsaw and signed the act of participation in the Revolution for citizens of Podolia and Ukania¹⁶ and participated in the election of representatives of these areas in the Warsaw Diet. Major Chlopicki then returned to troop duty and participated in the final phases of the campaign against Russia with Ramorin's Corps, finally being forced to surrender in Galicia.

His sixty year old uncle, General Chlopicki, had early given up the struggle, resigning as Poland's Dictator on January 23, 1831. There



MAJOR LUDWIK BARON CHLOPICKI. FROM A DRAWING MADE IN 1830
DURING THE REVOLUTION THAT FAILED.

is evidence this act did not please the younger men who had instigated the revolution, and that it estranged his fire brand nephew. The better judgment of the old General early realized the utter hopelessness of this war against so powerful a nation, and he escaped any severe punishment by the Russians, living a retired life until his death in 1854. Thousands of the patriotic Poles were exiled into Siberia. Ludwik and a group of the minor aristocracy managed to get into Austria, where once more these angry men who had lost all their lands and property fomented revolution against the Russians in Poland, then partitioned. Austria was a party to the bad peace, so they imprisoned Ludwik and the others for violating Austrian neutrality; thus the second try at a revolution under General Zaliwski was put down before it got well under way. Ludwik was imprisoned first at Lemberg, then Brunn and finally in crowded cells at Trieste.¹⁷

With lands seized, money gone and families exiled, scattered or estranged, 235 imprisoned patriots were put aboard the United States frigates *Guerriere* and *Hebe* on November 22, 1833 after both France and America had offered them a haven. The Chlopicki group, choosing America, thus found themselves destitute and bound for a new land, a new language and banished forever from home, friends and families. The exiles were delayed in the Mediterranean for weeks and some attempted to jump ship, but all finally arrived in New York on March 31, 1834, "with nothing but sad recollections of the past, and hopes for the future, . . . the still unconquered sons of adversity . . . (who) wish to become of service to the people of these United States."¹⁸

Ludwik Chlopicki was not a member of the Committee of Nine petitioning Congress for aid, but he and John Prehal became the sole agents for the whole group in the selection of lands granted them by Congress in an act approved by President Andrew Jackson on June 30, 1834. Only Chlopicki seems to have arrived in Illinois on September 7, the Chicago Historical Society having a brief mention of his residence in Chicago during the balance of 1834.

Major Chlopicki selected lands in Townships 44 and 46 in the Rock River valley near Rockton, Illinois. The act said he might select lands in any three adjacent townships, but he selected land in only Rockford and Rockton townships, omitting Owen in between them,¹⁹ since the Poles wouldn't need all three townships and settlers were already in Owen. Unused to American terms at that date, by the simple exclusion of Owens Township land, the Major unwittingly violated the land grant act of Congress. It is possible he believed he was doing the government a favor by not accepting all that was offered, but his act caused legal difficulties and delay which was fatal to the settlement.

The thirty American settlers already on the land by squatters rights or regular title used every reason they could think of to keep out the Poles. In addition, certain Indian camps were still in that vicinity and this was frightening and discouraging to the exiled strangers. Only a few Poles ever attempted to settle their lands in the face of the legal and physical difficulties.

Major Ludwik Baron Chlopicki was a brilliant man, but he was at his wits end; he was having trouble with Congress, with the land office, the squatters and Indians, and finally to his great grief, with his compatriot Poles who had scant means of self-support in the early days of their arrival. He felt he had failed them in their most trying hour. On April 15, 1838, he resigned as their agent and John Rychlicki succeeded him. The troubles continued and the Poles never received the land Congress had granted them. Another act cancelled their grant and authorized the public sale of their lands which was held on November 3, 1843.

By that time the exiled Poles had scattered to the four winds and had gone to work in dozens of American occupations. Many were found

later in St. Louis, Chicago, Louisville and Cincinnati. From among them came engineers and writers and a number of soldiers in the American Civil War even though many were advanced in age at that date. Felix Paul Wierzbicki, M. D., was the author of one of the first books to be published in English in California (1849).²⁰ Others of these Poles were later found from Texas to Canada, where one is reported to have become a Baronet.

Ludwik Chlopicki settled in St. Louis where the *St. Louis Directory* for the years 1836-7 lists him as operating a tavern at 30 Pine Street, at which time he was still acting as agent for his exiled group. That he was there earlier is proven by the date on his application for citizenship:

To the Honorable the Circuit Court of St. Louis County: Louis Chlopicki, an alien, who now wishes to become a citizen of the United States, reports that he is a native of Poland in the Province of Podolia in Poland, that he is forty years of age, that by birth he is a subject of Nicholas I, Emperor of Russia; that on the 17th of April in 1830 he left Poland and arrived in the United States on the 22nd of November, 1833,²¹ in which he has ever since resided, and that it is his intention to settle himself in this county and state. He further reports that in Poland he bore the Title and dignity of Major Baron and that it is his intention to renounce the same.

St. Louis, April 11, 1835.

(Signed) Louis Chlopicki.

(From the *Circuit Court records of St. Louis County, Mo.*)

Arthur L. Waldo, a writer on Polish historical subjects who lives in Phoenix, Arizona,²² says that Ludwik, who used the Americanized word Louis in this country, spent eighteen or twenty years in St. Louis, and that there is some belief that he contracted an unhappy marriage there. He also says that the eminent Polish historian Haiman told him that the whirlwind courtship of a certain Miss Englemann was definitely by Major Ludwik Chlopicki, who overplayed his hand and did not get the charming German maiden. This story is told in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*: "Belleville Germans look at America," by Ada M. Klett, (March, 1947).

Numerous El Paso people of an early day have stated that Chlopicki came here from Peoria after the railroad was completed in 1856, but there is no record of any Peoria residence or property ownership, and no historical record can be found of his ever being in Peoria. Waldo is no doubt correct in stating Chlopicki lived in St. Louis during the missing years of 1835 through 1855. George Bestor no doubt knew him in St. Louis and brought him to Peoria to make the arrangement by which the Count came to El Paso to live in Bestor's house, run a restaurant for his living and possibly keep an eye on Gibson and Wathen's lot sales to make certain Mr. Bestor's railroad got its full and proper cut.

While agent for the exiles, he made a speech in Vandalia, Illinois in January, 1835, the only published words of his that we can find. An issue of the *Sangamo Journal* of late January quoted extracts of



his address which show a flowery finesse worthy of the polished gentleman that he was:

Pardon me, gentlemen, that I beg in the name of my compatriots to return you our thanks for thus finishing your work so nobly commenced when we were suffering under the arbitrary power of a despot-that the virtue of a free people has not suffered those to become mendicants and wanderers among the virtuous, who have suffered for Liberty, and who are now exiles.

Such freedom as Ludwik Chlopicki finally found in America came at a very high price; loss of money, lands, family, friends and native country to which he dared not return for even a visit. A monument was placed at his unmarked grave in Evergreen Cemetery in 1952 by the El Paso Kiwanis Club giving a brief outline of the record of this chapter. This epitaph has a closing line that Americans should never forget:

"FREEDOM IS NOT FREE."

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Arthur L. Waldo of Phoenix, Arizona, writer of Polish histories, and Sabina P. Logisz, of the Polish Roman Catholic Union in Chicago, state that the Polish pronunciation of this proper name would sound something like "Loodvik Hlup-PEETZ-kee."
2. Diary of the elder William Ostler, describing the nonexistence of El Paso in 1855. The diary was published in part in the *El Paso Journal* book of early 1896.
3. The buildings are thus shown in the 1869 hand drawn aerial picture as used in the *El Paso Journal Supplement* of June 21, 1934.
4. Cobden (1804-1865) and Sir Lawrence Heyworth were both interested in the Illinois Central and both had towns named for them. Cobden was responsible for Britain abolishing her corn laws in 1846 and her newspaper stamp tax in 1855, which he called a tax on knowledge. He advocated free trade for England, and was one of her statesmen who defended the Union side in the Civil War. He opposed war in general, and became unpopular because he fought policies which led to the Crimean War.
Cobden was elected to Parliament, once while he was absent on the 1857 trip to America, and upon his return to England he declined a seat in the Cabinet as President of the Board of Trade. He completed an important treaty of commerce with France in 1860, representing Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. He was one of the most important men in England in his day.
5. The Cobden diary section pertaining to his local visit was sent to me by W. H. G. Armytage, historical writer of Sheffield University's faculty, and a British Broadcasting commentator. Although we were not acquainted, Armytage was a fellow member with this writer in the Fifth Army in Italy under General Mark W. Clark. He had the diary photographed in the British Museum in London and supplied the photostats, one of which is reproduced.
6. Also quoted in *Main Line of Mid-America*, by Carlton J. Corliss, Creative Age Press, 1950, on p. 96.
7. No doubt Jesse Slater (1839-1917) who was then a nineteen year old worker around the freight depot, whom Cobden first met March 23, 1859, Slater is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.
8. We regret Cobden mentions no names of the farmers he visited. They were no doubt Englishmen, from whom he could take a report back to England. We know the following were on "English Lane" that year: John, James, Henry and the Rev. William North; the older William Ostler and Edwin Tipler Sr. To the north, over in Panola Township, Henry Kingdon had his cabin where Alfred Kingdon lives today. His neighbors were the Hodges, Guards, and John and James Blackmore, all from England.
9. McClellan became a vice president of the Illinois Central, but went on to Ohio with another railroad before the war broke out. He states he had known Lincoln in their days on the Central. Historians rate the general

as an efficient organizer, popular with his troops, but lacking in the hard-driving, follow-up tactics that made Grant, Sherman and Sheridan the popular war heroes. Lincoln defeated him in 1864 for the Presidency after he had quit the army to run on an "end the war" platform, which he partly repudiated as Grant and Sherman's Armies began the campaigns which won the war.

Many who became prominent soldiers in the Civil War were associated with the Illinois Central, including Burnside, Dodge, Banks, Logan, Ransom (once station agent at Farina), and McClellan, all on the Union side. Confederates who were on the southern division of the Illinois Central when war broke out included Judah Benjamin, Secretary of War under Davis, Beauregard, Walthall, and G. W. Smith. All these and some others became generals, and hundreds of other Illinois Central men attained lesser rank and fame.

McClellan carried Woodford County over Lincoln in 1864.

10. We would have only a verbal record of this visit if White had not mailed his paper the dispatch which they did not publish until September 3. It read

El Paso, Ill., August 30, 1858. Old Abe was here for an hour on Saturday enroute to Peoria. We soon gathered a crowd around him, and he answered and set at rest the fool aspersions that Douglas and his followers are, with much effrontery, passing current through the land. When he left us, it was with his friends and co-workers stronger, if possible, in their party faith. (By courtesy of Dr. Harry Pratt, State Historian.)

We do not know why White remained over in El Paso on August 29 and 30, but it was probably to rest up in the Campbell House after the tiresome travel he had had. Joseph Medill was solidly behind Lincoln in that campaign, as in others, but he is said to have strongly advised Abe not to ask Douglas the four double edged Freeport questions.

11. This inspection trip was to evaluate the road's property, including all switch tracks and buildings. The information was to be used in defending a suit brought by the state of Illinois in an effort to collect additional taxes from the Central, claimed by the road's attorneys contrary to charter terms. The railroad won the suit, decided by the Supreme Court at Vandalia on November 19, 1859. This is not the celebrated McLean County Tax case of 1853 which was decided in the supreme court in 1856. Lincoln sued the road for his \$5,000 fee in that prior case, won it, and was again representing the road which once refused to pay him his fee.
12. All prior histories give this date as 1867, which the writer used when Chairman of the Committee which erected the Campbell House marker. Since then I have acquired a manuscript by Mrs. May Gibson Fleming, daughter of George L. Gibson, who knew the Count well. She says he died in 1869. Cemetery and newspaper records have been destroyed, but the pauper records at Eureka bear out the 1869 date. In April that year is a complete set of payments that fit the Chlopicki case exactly, and there is no such record in either 1867 or 1868, and we know his final bills were paid by the county. At that time, names were omitted in such cases.
13. From Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Jenkins, Sr., through their son Isaac and daughter Katharine. The elder Jenkins couple knew the old Count well.
14. We accept this date as given in the *Polish Academy of Sciences* biography of Ludwik Chlopicki, vol. 3, Krackow, 1937, as edited by Bronislaw Pawlowski, who cites numerous Polish authorities for his work. In Chlopicki's application for citizenship he said he was forty years of age in 1835. He was sensitive about his age and probably followed the

old European custom of being forty until he was fifty. Another error in application is outlined in 21 following.

15. General Jozsef Grzegorz Chlopicki (1771-1854) was born in Galacia and entered the Polish army at sixteen, fighting in a prior war for Poland's independence. After Warsaw fell on November 8, 1794 he went to France and served in the Army of the Cisalpine Republic under General Dombrowski.

The Count's uncle returned to Poland in 1806 with Emperor Napoleon protecting the Poles, and fought at Eylau and Friedland. From 1806 to 1811 he was in the Spanish Campaign and in 1812 he was with Napoleon's Army in the ill-fated march to Moscow, fighting at Smolensk and on the Moskva. Here he became the General of a Division, and served for a time under the ill-tempered Grand Duke Constantine.

General Chlopicki became the dictator of Poland at the outset of the newest rebellion of the Poles against Russia in 1830, a position he was able to keep less than two months. His views were then those of an old man of many campaigns, and were too conservative to suit the young rebels of his nephew's group. They carried on their war until the fall of 1830 when they surrendered and were imprisoned. Although the famous uncle lived for twenty years after Ludwik was exiled to America, there is no hint of help from him to his nephew, and it seems certain none was ever asked. Perhaps neither he nor Ludwik's parents, if they were still living, were able to help him or any other of the exiles.

16. This was a political act as distinguished from a military one, and possibly ruined Ludwik's chances for amnesty.
17. Much of this is from a manuscript by Edmund L. Kowalczyk of Boston, Massachusetts, who has spent years in research on Polish exiles in the United States, and who traded information with the writer.
18. This is an extract of Ludwik Chlopicki's address at Vandalia, Illinois in January, 1835 as published then by the *Sangamo Journal*.
19. See the article by Mrs. Isaac D. Rawlings, "Polish Exiles in Illinois," published in the *Transactions* for 1927 of the Illinois State Historical Society. She details the land grant troubles of these Polish exiles when Chlopicki and Rychlicki were acting as their agents. The need for research on the old El Paso resident began that year for the material in this chapter.
20. Kowalczyk.
21. November 22, 1833 is known to be the date the ships sailed from Trieste; Chlopicki probably considered he was on United States soil when he stepped aboard those two frigates. The date he left Poland also seems open to question, but possibly he was not on Polish soil in the campaigns following the date he gives.
22. Waldo has been most helpful in this research. He has located a number of distant relatives of Ludwik Chlopicki, most of whom probably never knew what happened to their illustrious kinsman. Ludwik had a brother John who served under Napoleon as a lieutenant, and Edward, son of John, studied in Paris and returned to Poland as a professor.

Julius C. Chlopicki and his brother, Joseph B. A. Chlopicki left Russian occupied Poland in 1907 and in 1952 were living in Berwyn Heights, Maryland. Julius C. Jr. and Joseph V. Chlopicki were born in Washington, D. C., and Waldo says they still reside in that area. Isabella Marie Chlopicki, came to America in 1912 and married Dr. Joseph Michalski, a graduate of Georgetown University. Isabella was a member of the Polish Embassy prior to her marriage, and she has a son, Joseph Witold Michalski who at last report was a captain in the United States Army. (All of this note is from information supplied by Arthur L. Waldo of Phoenix, Arizona.)

CHAPTER 6

The Campbell House

George H. Campbell was born in Monroe County, New York, November 6, 1837, the son of Stewart and Jane Ann (Van Ness) Campbell.¹ When eighteen he left home and went to Chicago where he found employment with the new Illinois Central Railroad Company. He worked for them in turn at Chicago, Mendota and Lena, Illinois, and in 1858 they made him their agent in the new prairie crossroad town of El Paso. The Peoria and Oquawka Railroad Company, having reached this junction two years earlier, soon made him their agent also. The depot was then on the township road which is now Main Street, exactly one block south of where he later built his Campbell House.

In 1862 Mr. Campbell noted that hotels were being combined with depots along the new railroads, and he decided that El Paso would be a logical place for one. Although only twenty-four, he secured a railroad lease to the ground in the northwest quadrant where the rail-



GEORGE H. CAMPBELL.

roads crossed and began the construction of his building with only a twenty foot platform between it and the rails of both roads. He sent to

Indiana for heavy timbers for sills and frame, and in 1863 he completed his three story hostelry and depot, the finest in any of the new towns. He then leased the hotel section to his sister Mary's husband, Smith Johnston, and next secured permission to move the depot to the new location, where he continued as agent for both roads for a time. The next year on November 6 he married Frances Gertrude Henry of El Paso, and they established residence in the hotel as had the Johnstons.²

For years the hotel was listed as an excellent place to stop overnight, and the dining room became noted for the fine meals served to hotel guests, local citizens and the passengers from the trains. Dining cars were not regularly in use, and the trains stopped long enough for those wishing meals to be served at the Campbell House. The



THE CAMPBELL HOUSE JUST PRIOR TO THE 1895 ADDITIONS.

hand bell announcements of dinner now being served, or the call that the northbound passenger was arriving, are within the memory of several old timers still around El Paso. Col. Virgil C. Gordon, general chairman of the 1954 centennial celebration, owns the Campbell House hand bell as his prize relic.

Mr. Campbell took over the hotel management from his brother-in-law in 1870, a few months after the death of his sister, Mary Johnston. No record of the guests of those days now exists, but on January 12, 1869 one of Mr. Johnston's overnight guests was a young and unknown

lecturer named Samuel L. Clemens. From his room that night the lonesome traveler wrote a literary classic to his girl Livvy in New York state. It is now published among the *Love Letters of Mark Twain*, including the El Paso dateline but without once mentioning the town or what he was doing in it. The letter concerned things that Clemens thought was the more important at the moment.

The Campbell House had cost its young owner \$10,000; this was a huge sum in those times for a young man to raise. But the war boomed his business as it did the town, and the fame of the fine hotel spread all over the midwest. It became the landmark of El Paso. The mention of it was commonplace in distant states well into the twentieth century.

George Williamson, old time resident of both the Secor and El Paso areas, who traded in Kansas farmland when that state was young, once got off a train at Spivey, Kansas, and had to walk to Rago to find a room for the night. Inquiring of an old native with a basket on his arm about a hotel, Williamson mentioned that he was from about thirty-three miles east of Peoria, Illinois.

"Why, that must be El Paso," the Kansan replied, and then asked, "Is the Campbell House still operating?"

George told him that it was, and inquired how he knew about that building.

"I ought to know something about it," the old fellow said, "for I built it, and I remember I used to go down to the Kappa bridge and fish every Sunday morning while I was working on it." The man's name was Johnson.

Touring Canada, Judge Horace H. Baker lost his re-entry papers. It was in the early twenties as he tried to make his return to the United States at the northeast woods station of Jackman, Maine. In his predicament, he was taken before a second customs official, to whom Baker explained, "I live in Illinois, at a small town you've never heard of called El Paso."

"Is that so?" the customs stranger replied. "Well I'm telling you right now that if the Illinois Central hasn't fixed up that terrible Campbell House crossing since the last time I saw it, you'd better see that it's done when you get home."³

The man had been a recruiting officer in World War I and had lived in a car on the siding near the Campbell House during 1918. Needless to say, Judge Baker had a nice visit and no further trouble in returning to the United States.

Eleven local people and four from Tonica boarded a Niagara Falls excursion train at the Campbell House about ten o'clock the evening of August 10, 1887. Peter Roth and Albert Theveene were from Panola; others were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hart and their two daughters; Albert E. Fleming and Lewis M. Kerr, Mrs. J. D. Connell, Charles Tapley and Samuel Glass. The heavy twenty-two car train left Peoria

at 7:15 P. M. but the two engines could not keep it on time because it stopped at all stations to pick up added passengers.

It was perhaps five minutes before midnight when Engineer David Sutherland caught a glimpse of a burned out culvert in his headlights, and it was far too late for him to stop the train and avoid the crash.



ENGINE 13 IN THE CHATSWORTH WRECK SCENE.

His engine twenty-one in the lead somehow hurtled over the weakened structure, but Engineer E. B. McClintock's number thirteen crashed through and turned over, killing McClintock instantly. The following five cars became kindling wood, nearly all of the eighty-one killed and 170 injured were in those cars. Fortunately, the El Paso folks were riding in cars near the rear of the train and none was injured. Fleming, Kerr and Dr. E. P. Hazen of Ft. Madison, Iowa were only shaken up so they walked the two and one-half miles back to the Chatsworth station to give the alarm and get help to the scene. They had trouble getting the wire to Peoria as the Farmingdale station was on fire at the same moment. They aroused the mayor who was James A. Smith Sr., father of James A. Smith Jr. of El Paso. The depot building, still standing, and the Filber building were converted into morgues until the bodies could be identified and claimed. Another survivor was E. N. Armstrong, general superintendent of the T. P. & W. railroad, who took charge of everything, placing the notice we reproduce on the door of the Filber building, which was sometime later taken off by James A. Smith Jr. and preserved as a memento of the tragedy.

M. H. Cassell⁴ had been El Paso's postmaster and had at that time recently moved to Washington, Illinois. He boarded the ill-fated train, and those who had talked to him declared he had intended getting off at El Paso, but that he was asleep when the train arrived here and was

Toledo, Peoria & Western Railroad.

Philip Henry Brown, Robert C. Martin, and Walter J. Bates.

Charlestown, Ill. Aug 11th 1889
 No one allowed in this
 room except on business
 By order of
 E. M. Armstrong
 Genl Supt

NOTICE TACKED TO THE FILBER BUILDING DOOR, USED AS MORGUE.

carried by his station. Searchers found his railroad pass in the debris, and later W. H. Hoagland, O. J. Lemon, Dr. Samuel Kerr and Editor Andrew O. Rupp of the El Paso Journal identified his body in the depot building.

It was improbable that a railroad crossing within a few feet of the Campbell House should be free from accidents through the years. On February 2, 1889 an Illinois Central freight train knocked a T. P. & W. switch engine into the freight depot astonishing John Sheckler who was on duty at his desk. A more serious wreck occurred April 8, 1911, when the westbound 9:36 p. m. passenger engine cut through the twenty-eighth car of a long Illinois Central freight, upsetting on the south side of the Campbell House. Somehow Engineer W. J. Osterhaut and Fireman Lem Thompson crawled out of the wreckage of their cab without serious injuries. A mechanic who was riding with them saw the coming crash and jumped, but he landed against the switch control post a few yards east of the crossing and was rather badly hurt. None of the freight cars which piled up touched the Campbell House. These wrecks were minor compared to the Chatsworth wreck, then the second worst in U. S. history in point of fatalities, which kept the T. P. & W. railroad in financial difficulty for the next half century.

The Campbell apartment on the second floor of the hotel became crowded as the children came: Ava Buelah, Harry George, Hugh Stuart and Isis Gertrude made the Captain's family a well known one. In 1895 the building was expanded on the ground floor to make a larger baggage room and to add a barber shop and other space which cost \$3,500. Depot and dining rooms were on the first floor, the living apartments and some hotel rooms were on the second, the third floor being all hotel space.

Except for a short period when Mr. Campbell leased the hotel to A. L. Hathaway, he continued its management until he died on Decem-



WRECK OF ENGINE FIFTY-EIGHT, APRIL 8, 1911.

26, 1896. He and his wife are buried in Evergreen Cemetery. Although under sixty when he died, he had been a prominent figure in El Paso, serving two terms as alderman, and one as mayor in 1882.

Mrs. Frances Campbell then lived with her son Harry G. Campbell who took over the management, and a third generation of Campbells arrived in the son's apartment. Harry had married Robie Tucker of El Paso, and to them were born George and Ava Campbell, who grew up in the place. George Campbell now lives in Hollywood and Ava (Mrs. Keith Talcott) lives in Burbank, California. George Campbell of Hollywood has been secretary of the musicians' union there for many years, and because of the motion picture industry, this is an important position. He says writing his piano compositions called "Melodies in the Modern Mood" is only a pastime. These works are actually high class, slightly Gershwin in style, and were first introduced in El Paso at the centennial year play named "The Campbell House Blues". He is an accomplished cellist, playing with many notables, among whom was Charles Cadman.

In June of 1913 the need for a new and more modern depot building was discussed on several occasions by the railroads concerned and the El Paso Commercial Club,⁵ then the town's leading civic organization. The Illinois Central agreed to buy the Campbell House, already on their leased ground, remove it and erect a new depot on the spot. Harry Campbell and the railroad could not agree on the price, whereupon the railroad sued Campbell in an ouster proceeding and won their case, but before the necessary year for a rehearing had expired, the Campbells gave them a quit claim deed and the building passed into railroad ownership. Mrs. Frances Campbell did not die until 1933, so

she and Harry's family moved into the Baity property at 495 East Third Street in 1917, and eventually to California.

During World War I the Central sent a crew to El Paso to raze the old hotel and depot. A wire from William Gibbs McAdoo, war railroad administrator stopped this, and ordered that no new building could be erected during the war. He did authorize needed repairs as a war necessity. In 1918 these repairs were made; they almost amounted to a rebuilding which cost more than the original and the 1895 additions combined.

The remodeled hotel opened under its old name of the Campbell House, but the Van Noys Company could not make it and its new restaurant pay. They gave up their lease and Cecil D. Tarman, a local man, and others in turn tried the management in whole or in part, each soon quitting at a loss or with no profit.

The coming of the automobile and the laying of hard surfaced roads were then causing a rapid decline in rail passenger traffic through El Paso. With state routes 2 and 8, eventually U. S. Highways 51 and 24, crossing a half-mile to the west of the rail crossing, that area soon became more important than the old center of traffic. The last regularly scheduled passenger train on the T. P. & W. came through in 1926,⁶ although their combination trains and freights did on occasion carry a passenger or two after that year. The Illinois Central kept up a lessening passenger service for thirteen more years, finally receiving a permit to discontinue service completely. At 4:30 P. M. the afternoon of April 1, 1939, northbound passenger train No. 130 made



LAST SOUTHBOUND PASSENGER TRAIN, APRIL 1, 1939.

the final scheduled run.⁷ Many local folks bought tickets for short rides to Panola and Minonk where friends met them in cars and brought them back to El Paso. The writer and Judge Horace H. Baker made that "sentimental journey," buying tickets in the little baggage room north of Front Street from the site of the Campbell House, then torn down. Agent Joe Jerew, now dispatcher at Clinton for the Illinois Central, felt so bad about the whole thing that T. P. & W. Agent William Burroughs came over to console him and help him sell the most tickets he had sold in a month.

The final lessee of the old Campbell House was H. S. Kirby who opened another restaurant and a separate shop for shoe repairing. He finally vacated and the building deteriorated rapidly until it came down under the hammers of a wrecking crew in 1938. It was the one building in the center of things that had survived three bad El Paso fires.

A new passenger depot was out of the question in 1938. The long heavy freights are all that pass the site today. It is a traffic as heavy as it ever was and it is controlled locally from the freight offices of agents William Burroughs and Tom Meziere in the opposite quadrangle from the old hotel site.

On November 1, 1939, Judge Horace H. Baker dedicated the present plaque which marks the spot the old landmark once occupied. It was erected by the El Paso Post No. 59 of the American Legion and was unveiled by Isis Campbell McKinney, daughter of the founder. The bronze marker reads in part:

On this site from 1863 to 1938 stood the Campbell House, famous old hostelry and railroad depot built by George H. Campbell in 1863 and operated almost continuously by him and his son Harry Campbell until 1917. General U. S. Grant held a reception here on Monday, April 19, 1880, and General John A. Logan spoke nearby on October 6, 1872.⁸ Many other notables had been guests at other times.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Some of the material for this chapter is from the records and memory of Miss Mary Francis Stevens, whose mother was Caroline Campbell, a sister of George H. Campbell. There were six children in this family.
2. Paragraph two is taken partly from the *El Paso Journal* of June 15, 1887.
3. This was one of Judge Baker's many stories and was told personally to the writer. Baker was a wonderful story teller.
4. The writer got his given name indirectly from the Cassell family.
5. Old Commercial Club records, (the writer was one-time secretary,) and the G. R. Curtiss file in possession of C. F. Curtiss, contain much of this information.
6. Letter from John E. Lundholm, October 10, 1950, then attorney and historian for the T. P. & W. Railroad Company.
7. Letter from Joseph Jerew, Illinois Central dispatcher at Clinton and former El Paso agent, dated September 21, 1951.
8. General Logan delivered a political speech that day in the wigwam which stood where the V. F. W. building is now located.

CHAPTER 7

The Fair

The genesis of the original country fair extends far back into antiquity. This type of celebration was nothing new to the Middle Ages. Here in America the first agricultural fair was conceived by Alkanah Watson of Albany, New York, who persuaded the state legislature in 1819 to appropriate \$10,000 annually for six years to encourage agricultural production. Starting in the East and surging westward with America's conquest of the retreating wilderness, Watson's bright idea eventually caught up with prairie born El Paso where imagination of aggressive men and women then intrigued by the growing grange movement, found expression in a fair held on September 18, 1879 in Fisher's pasture north of town on the east side of the Illinois Central railway. Rightly enough, it was a Grange fair, that movement having been founded in December, 1867 by O. H. Kelley who was connected with the Department of Agriculture. John Parr now owns that land.

On June 15, 1880 the determined but relatively inexperienced El Paso District Fair Association of Woodford County, Illinois, received from William G. Randall, in consideration of \$1,537.50, a deed to the parcel of land destined to be until 1927 the home of all our successive fairs. Since experience in any line of endeavor comes from patient work forged by the inexorable trial and error process, our early fair officials faced a multitude of tasks and problems before their infant organization could be expected to operate efficiently and effectively. Where an idea didn't perform satisfactorily, a better one was substituted; where friction was encountered, the oil of sympathetic cooperation was applied. Always uppermost in each official's mind was the question of how next year's fair could be made bigger and better. The proper time for holding the fair was when farmers had their oats harvest out of the way and were enjoying a breathing spell, so most of our fairs were held in early September.

El Paso and its environs responded with a wholesome enthusiasm that convinced officials they were achieving results. Gate receipts, invariably the best barometer of success or failure, proved that business was good. Early day visitors to the fair first came in carts and wagons, later in fine buggies. All weather roads were undreamed of, even in the final days of the fair when automobiles were the sole

source of conveyance and were parked all over the grounds. In 1889, just a decade after the original debut in El Paso, John Tyler was president of the fair board, and Walter Bennett was secretary.

Professor Munos, the "Greatest Living Aeronaut," brought his balloon and his magnetic presence to that fair. The *El Paso Journal* of August 31, 1889¹ announced that "the professor will make the ascension from the grounds and while poised in space many thousand feet above the ground, will drop from the balloon. This is the most wonderful feat ever attempted by man and must be seen to be appreciated." If the sun shone on the day of that great event, more than one youngster, and adult too, had the roof of his mouth sunburned! Yes, 1889 was *some* year; even if we hadn't had the fair, there was Ringling Brothers & Van Amburgh's Circus. Heralded far and wide as the "United Monster Circus, Museum and Menagerie," the big top came here on September 20, and with its wealth of exotic wonders left impressions that lasted a lifetime.

The fair of 1890 was probably just as exciting and well patronized as its predecessor. One big attraction was a diorama of panorama depicting the Battle of Gettysburg which was housed in a huge tent near the floral hall. If there were any errors of fact in that scene it was almost certain to be ferreted out by some of the many veterans of the Civil War then living, some of whom must have seen action in that decisive struggle.

Due to the overshadowing stature of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, El Paso dispensed with what would have been her fourteenth annual celebration. We made up for lost time by staging a Crystal Celebration in 1895. Ed Hodgson was then president and George R. Curtiss secretary. The special feature was bicycle races. The two-wheeled vehicles, resembling nothing seen on the streets today, were in the crest of their greatest popularity wave. There are authorities who claim that it was really the bicycle and not the automobile that spearheaded the demand for improved roads.

Balloon ascensions with parachute drops were still popular in the closing period of the nineteenth century, and El Paso, constantly on the alert for anything dramatic in entertainment, engaged Professor M. M. Forsman, "the most successful aeronaut in the Mississippi Valley" to perform here. We don't know why, but these aeronauts always bore the "professor" title.

Seemingly determined not to be outdone by imported talent at the 1899 fair, the Kemp brothers' "Wild West Show and Hippodrome," were engaged to come to their own home town from a long and spectacular showing at Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Kemp Sisters' act with Lida and Mida Kemp surprised their home town friends who were seeing them for the first time in their great professional exhibition of fancy riding and accurate marksmanship.

We will not deal much with the Kemp shows because the following chapter tells a complete story about them, we believe for the first

time. But they did return for a 1900 engagement and fate wasn't kind to them. The end of the famous Galveston hurricane hit El Paso on Monday and Tuesday of that fair week and the big Kemp sideshow tent was ruined.

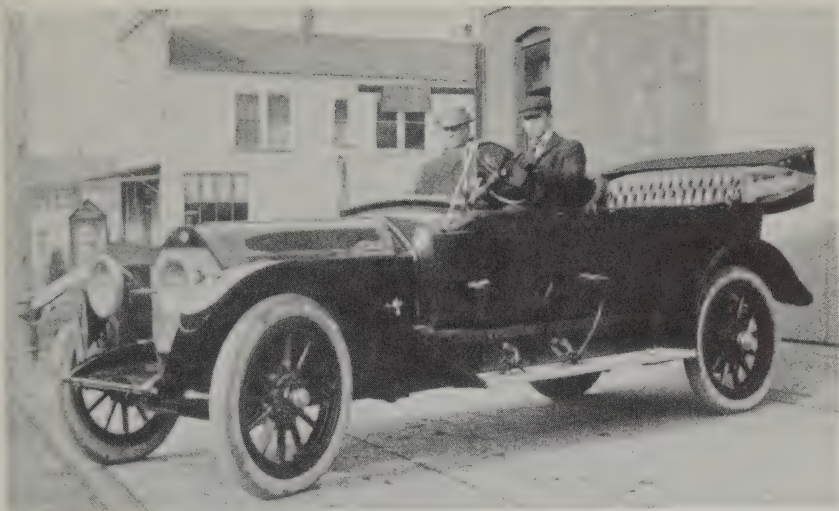
The turn of the century found El Paso's fair forging ahead in all departments. Farmers were taking keen interest in the competitive exhibitions of horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, while wives and daughters filled the octagon shaped floral hall with prize-winning entries attesting to their skill in baking, sewing, drawing, gardening and other domestic arts. Manufacturers, quick to appraise the size and quality of an expanding rural economy, gave local merchants and dealers fine cooperation in displaying and advertising their latest products. So important had the fair become that railroads at times offered excursion rates to El Paso. The 1905 fair was billed as "Bigger, Better, Grander than Ever." The weather couldn't have been better. It was hot, dry and dusty, the kind that went with fairs like butter goes with bread. Police regulations were strict in those days, one notice reading: "All women will be excluded from the grounds after 7 P. M. until the opening of the ground the next day."

If we read the names of the officers and directors of that fair, we begin to realize how Father Time exacts his toll. The president was John F. Schofield, vice president, John F. Shepard, the treasurer, Azro H. Waite, the secretary, John F. Bosworth. The following were members of the board of directors: George Pinkham, R. W. Gough, James A. Gilbert, Albert E. Fleming, M. A. Adams, O. S. Kring, George W. Tegard, J. L. McOmber, Frank E. Lewis, George R. Curtiss, John C. Evans, B. F. Slenker and George H. Scheer. Every one of the gentlemen who ran our fair forty-nine years ago is now deceased.

The endless parade of years not only removed familiar faces in less than a half century, but played havoc with the names of products that were once household words. For instance, there was the Twin Brace Wire Fence, the Schuttler wagon, and the Stawana gang plow, all once sold by S. H. North. Nor can we forget the Gaar Scott Double Cylinder Engine and the Great Western Endless Apron Manure Spreader advertised and sold by Donner & Risser, and to this should be added their Interstate automobile of which young Clay Donner was so proud.

Old Dobbin was once a great and valued asset on the farms and on the roads. In the heyday of the horse, and it was a long-lived one, it played a role of vital importance. The 1909 fair was famous for its exhibition rings of outstanding draft and driving horses, some 223 animals being entered in those classes. The 1910 fair paid an even greater tribute to the farmers' equine friends, for that year there were 302 entries.

The 1913 fair had the finest of weather, but a deep cut in the gate receipts came from strong competition. At Lacon an old settlers' picnic was in progress; on Thursday another picnic was enjoyed by

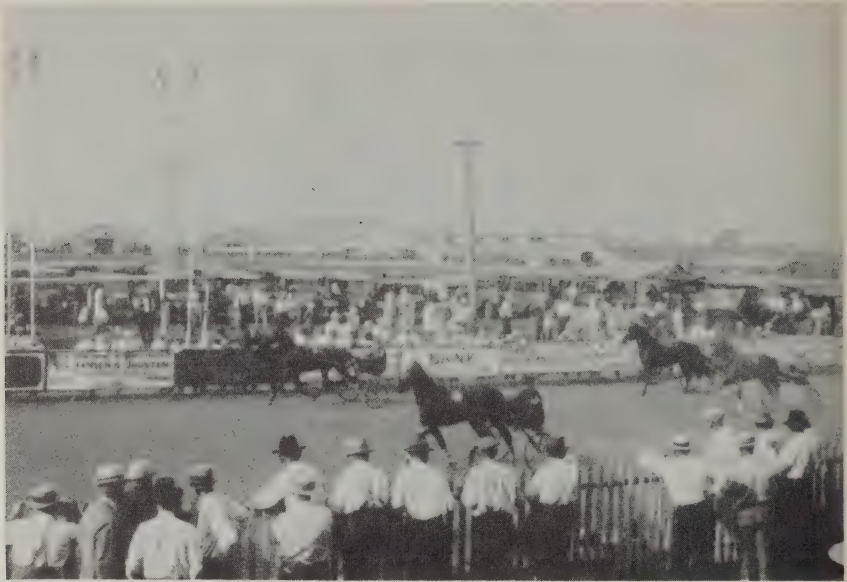


INTERSTATE CAR SOLD BY DONNER & RISSER IN 1913.

the Catholics of the Chenoa area; the same day found the deVries grove filled with Lutherans of Minonk who were more picnic-minded than fair-minded; Long Point was host to a Sunday School picnic; a farmers' picnic at Saybrook was drawing crowds from a wide section; many thrill-seekers went to Elgin to watch their widely advertised road races; the Bloomington chautauqua was in session and Barnum's circus was in Peoria. It's a wonder the fair had survived.

By the time of the 1915 fair it was evident to seasoned observers that a change was taking place. The tractor had appeared on the agricultural horizon and Peter Donner was trumpeting the prowess of the Bull Tractor No. 3, a mechanical steed carrying the price tag of \$585. Implement dealers everywhere saw a ripe market in prospect for them as champions of the horse and steam engines saw the inroads of gasoline powered machines. In stores, grain offices and wherever men of the soil gathered, spirited controversies raged between the horse farmer and the new tractor farmer. A minority at first, the latter group found their ranks swelling with each passing year as slowly but surely the tractor won converts, but some farm leases specified "horse farming only" into the late 1920's.

A fine new grandstand was erected in the summer of 1915 to replace the uninsured one which was irreparably damaged in the severe wind and hailstorm that swept through El Paso the evening of May 15 that year. The new stand presented an innovation in the seating of the band, and the *El Paso Journal* said: "This year the fair managers decided the band should be located in front, instead of in the big building, so that the grandstand patrons at the ends of the big structure should be able to hear the fine music to better advantage." We are told the Bloomington band played that year. It was one of the best



VIEW OF THE LAST FAIR FROM THE GRANDSTAND.

directed organizations of its kind in these parts, and was greatly enjoyed by lovers of band music. It was invited back several times. Spencer's Military Band of Peoria was another superb organization that played at the fair, and one year the famous Kilties Band of Canada was here.

The 1920 fair was a great one, with a fine new stock barn to house added entires of show cattle. The Canton P. & O. band played here under the direction of Carl D. Bethel, formerly with the Steel Pier Band of New York City. M. L. Mosher, Woodford County farm adviser, was again showing farmers his big soil map which drove home facts and figures with telling effect. Callahan's Dramatic Company, owned and operated by lovable Bill Callahan, was again making a six day stand in El Paso, thrilling young and old with plays bringing tears one minute and gales of laughter the next. Who can forget Bill's big tent, or his acting and between curtain entertainment? His sister was with him in the several seasons they played here, setting up on the lots just south from the St. Mary's Church, or those where the late Norris Kemp's bungalow now stands at 501 West Front Street. Callahan turned those lots into worlds of enchantment with a new play each of the six nights.

A number of local folks ran stands of one kind or another at many of the fairs. George Williamson operated a shooting gallery and lunch stand for several seasons and made a specialty called "Boston Cream Chewing Candy" which some kids now grown still remember.

What helped make the Tuesdays of fairs held in the 1920's a "hummer?" Why, the barbecue! It was something that satisfied the gastro-nomic demands of the most captious meat eater. On those Tuesdays, fireless cookers were shipped by express from the Armour Packing Company, with an expert bent on serving the fair-goers a delicacy such as they had never before tasted. Preparing and serving a half ton of boneless beef finely cooked was too big a job for the one man, so President J. J. De Motte, Treasurer P. H. Andrews, Secretary Horace H. Baker and others pitched in to help. Thus the multitude was appetizingly served.

If Walter Evans was unable to sell any Paige cars that afternoon he could blame only poor salesmanship for his failure. The same might be said of all the other automobile salesmen on the fairgrounds. Other salesmen pressing for sales included Thomas Boyd with Buicks priced from \$865 to \$2195, Clarence Massey and a new car named the Chrysler with a new idea called balloon tires, and Dave Diers had his Fords. Many were skeptical of the Chrysler which sold from \$1395 to \$1995, and predicted it wouldn't last. Dave's Ford runabout cost \$348 F. O. B. Detroit with certain accessories extra. Diers also was trying for tractor sales with a new Fordson tractor that sold for \$395. It is difficult to understand how any man fortified with barbecued beef a la King, Andrews and De Motte could look at those shiny new cars and turn these supersalesmen down.

The county and state fair automobile races drew immense crowds, and El Paso held them on Saturday as a climax to the crowded schedule of fair week's horse racing events. In 1924 sixteen cars were entered, but less than half finished. Four preliminary races of five miles each followed the time trials. The real contest was the twenty-five mile event when the grim-visaged drivers defied death on the sharp turns of the half mile track. Ralph Hammers had a stripped down Chalmers, but was not racing in 1924. The auto races filled the air with gasoline fumes, the odor of scorched castor oil, and clouds of choking dust. The roar of the motors was deafening. A high board fence enclosed the grounds, and climbing through or over this provided a daring sport for the kids, who perched themselves in trees outside the fence if they got caught trying to sneak through it.

Sharing honors with the racing cars were the motorcycles. The record setting Gowdy brothers of Fairbury could make their Excelsiors do everything but talk. Hair raising speed was their specialty and they established several American dirt track records. Of all these daring races on the old fair grounds track, only one man was ever killed; Hefferly of La Salle lost his life on the north turn when his motorcycle went out of control.

El Paso gave the horse racing fans everything they wanted, and there were many spectators who wouldn't trade a horse race for all of the gasoline kind. We had pacing, trotting and running races with

purses generous enough to attract the best in the various classes. Pony races for boys and girls added variety. Mule races, understandably enough, brought down the house, because these independent cusses had minds of their own and could be counted upon to do what the rider did not want the mule to do. Only the bravest soul was willing to place a wager on a mule race.

Acrobats and aerialists, trained animals and silly clowns, horses trained to almost human intelligence; all were incredible performers doing incredible things right before your eyes. There was auto polo too. The balloon finally lost its appeal after the advent of the airplane. Closely following the flight by Walter Brookins in Peoria in 1910, first powered flight in central Illinois, came the one at the 1911 El Paso fair by Harry Powers in a Curtiss biplane. The infield presented a short runway considering lack of power in those early engines and Powers had a close call on his first day's flight but he landed safely. In the take-off the second day, he crashed on the northwest corner of the grounds and smashed his airplane into bits, most of which were carried away by the souvenir hunters. It was the first airplane wreck in central Illinois, and Powers was lucky he was



HARRY POWERS IN CURTISS BIPLANE SEPTEMBER 1, 1911. A MINUTE LATER THIS BECAME CENTRAL ILLINOIS' FIRST PLANE CRASH.

carried away alive. Two national guard fighter planes crashed southwest of El Paso on October 17, 1953, the most recent of crashes in this part of the state.

Ruth Law gave the most perfect airplane exhibition of the three aviators who came to the El Paso fairs. She performed a flight each day with a passenger who made a parachute jump. About that time Catherine Stinson also exhibited here. She got her underpowered Stinson into the air, barely clearing telephone wires at the east end of

the grounds, but she was in trouble from the start. There was not enough power to lift her ship and she crash-landed it in Roy Kingdon's corn field without too much damage, from where it was hauled away.

In the southwest corner of the fair ground was a grove of catalpa, ash and soft maple trees. Dr. A. C. King, El Paso dentist and long time secretary of the fair in its later years, built a cement dance platform there and lighted it. He provided shelter for the orchestra, put a rail around the platform, and proceeded to give lovers of dance music a golden opportunity. If you got on the floor you paid; if you stood at the rail and listened you could get by free. Customers and spectators were both plentiful after the attractions of the fair lost their savor. In late years there were some evening openings of the fair; these usually included fireworks and the free acts, but the former proved a financial headache, costing much money and bringing little return. Keeping open at night was a concession to the carnivals booked in those late years, and was a sound business proposition for a time. People could get to the night fair when perhaps they could not to the day entertainment. They spent money on the rides, the towering Ferris wheel, the whip, merry-go-round and the midway with its shows. At a first night wrestling show on the midway around 1914 or 15 the barker was challenging all comers to wrestle kid so-and-so of the show, who agreed to throw the opponent in three minutes or forfeit \$50. The crowd at once starting pushing forward a challenger. It was Walter R. Evans, El Pasoan who was then world's welterweight wrestling champion. The barker didn't recognize Evans but his wrestler did; he shook hands with him and said, "We mean anybody but him."

In 1927, the year of the forty-sixth El Paso fair, we saw the curtain pulled down on the last act. The show was over. It seemed a successful fair, just as those at Watseka, Princeton and Henry seemed successful, but we were deeply in debt, and the fair officials felt they could no longer sign the necessary notes and keep the annual attraction going. The fair closed for good. George Curtiss, a long time advocate and booster of the fair, wrote in his *El Paso Journal*: "During the past seven or eight years the fair, like many others over the state, suffered financial losses to such extent that the association has decided to quit, last fall's exhibition being the final effort."

The El Paso Township High School Board was advised that it might purchase the balance of the fair ground upon assuming \$13,500 of the fair association's debt. The board had purchased a portion of the grounds and the school was built on that plot, the old main gate of the fair being the north end of Elm Street. The purchase was turned down by the voters, so the fair buildings were torn down, with the exception of the cattle barn in the northeast corner, now the County Highway shed. The material was sold, the grandstand going to the



GEORGE R. CURTISS, FAIR BOOSTER, AT HIS DESK AS
EDITOR OF THE OLD EL PASO JOURNAL.

Henry Fair association where it was rebuilt and is still in service at the Marshall-Putnam county fair. The grounds are now regularly farmed, race track and all, by George Williamson who purchased the thirty acres.² In 1948 he sold a strip east and west along the south fence to the school system so their campus might be squared, and bulldozers tore up Dr. King's old dance floor and pushed over the remaining trees, while scrapers smoothed the ground for its intended use as an addition to the athletic field.

Corn and oats now are grown where racing cars once roared and sweating thoroughbreds pounded the turf. Gone is soft-spoken George Green, El Paso Negro who demonstrated what skill and patience could do with horses, and who was an annual exhibitionist at the fair. Jack and Jud Kelts, the inseparable tobacco chewing twins, were always at the fairs, probably wearing police badges or press cards which some prank-playing friend had pinned on them. No longer does the marching military band head northward from Front Street, drawing the crowd straight to the big grandstand.

You who are too young to remember the El Paso Fair have really missed something.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. The El Paso Journal files provided most of the material for this chapter; they are almost complete from 1888 to 1927.
2. George Williamson sold the balance of the old fair grounds to the El Paso Community Unit School District on March 1. 1954, after this book was in type.

CHAPTER 8.

Kemp's Wild West Shows

George Pendelton Kemp "was reared in the West, and is thoroughly familiar with the life and habits of the plainsman. With his brothers Frank and Abe,¹ he organized the Kemp Brothers Wild West Shows which has toured the country for many seasons." So read the advertising brochures of the Kemps. Since G. P., as he was familiarly known, was born in Lexington, Illinois on September 4, 1864, and had lived all his life in Lexington, Gridley, El Paso and La Mar, Missouri, this show bill slightly exaggerated his western background. He finally did settle in the West, but that was after his show had closed in 1912; this was his first residence in the far west which he had portrayed to eastern audiences for more than twenty years.

The show proper began in the early 1890's, booking fairs and celebrations in eastern cities, where the Wild West features attracted great throngs. We are unable to find the date of their first showing. They had been out a season or two when Frank Kemp bought a newspaper in Baltimore, Maryland, to read that his home town had suffered a great fire with the center business block totally destroyed. The fire was July 19, 1894. In 1895 we find them at the district fair of Iona, Michigan, the managers reporting that the "Kemp Brothers aggregation is a first class attraction. Mr. G. P. Kemp is a gentleman, and to all persons looking for something that is really good, we would say, seek no further."

Some of their show advertising was nearer truth than the bill about their western background. One told how "the Kemp brothers have been riding Roman fashion all their lives, and to their credit belongs the revival of the old Roman sports races that have so thrilled the American public." G. P., Frank and later Abe Kemp had been riding two horses at one time since their boyhood. The brothers used old Pastime Park near Kappa and a track at the eastern edge of Gridley for practice performances before Sunday and holiday crowds. Gridley folks who were close friends of the Neuhauser girl who married G. P. were displeased with her for allowing her husband to tie their two little girls on their ponies as they went through a routine of tricks and jumping. Years later, Mida and Lida Kemp were two of the finest horsewomen in America.

Enoch Kemp, father of the three boys, first lived on today's Route 24 at Oak and Main Streets, a little farm known for years afterward as the Fred Blumenshine place. Enoch then purchased the Potter place where the Cities Service station is located at Fayette and Front Streets. In spite of the fact Enoch lost his life in June, 1902 in an accident with horses, his three sons kept up their dangerous art of trick and fancy riding. It was on this home block of ground that the boys had winter quarters for their show for a number of years. Norris Kemp, son of Abraham, built his new bungalow there in 1950.

In 1899 the show was billed as the Kemp Brothers Shows, but Lida and Mida² were so thrilling their audiences with their riding, roping, stunting and shooting that papers began calling Mida the girl of the golden West, and G. P. then changed the name to the Kemp Sisters Wild West Shows. The father remained as owner and manager. In that season they first showed in their home town of El Paso during the fair, and they repeated in 1900.

The shows increased in size to twenty-five or more acts, so on occasion they split the troupe into two sections and played two cities at the same time. Always a great many Indians from reservations were with the show, one headliner being Alex Long Pumpkin, a Sioux, who bore thirty-two knife and sabre wounds on his body from the Custer massacre and other Indian wars. His wife and their relatives traveled with the Kemp shows. Miss Carmine Alvrise, a Cuban beauty, inter-



THE SIOUX ALEX LONG PUMPKIN AND HIS FAMILY TRAVELED WITH THE KEMPS FOR YEARS.

nationally known expert in fancy and target shooting performances was with the show in 1899 and probably other seasons.

Col. Victor F. Cody, nephew of Buffalo Bill Cody, traveled with the Kems with his wife and daughter, Miss Jennie. A sad day for the Kemp Shows was when Jennie died, a young bride, and the entire troupe attended her funeral in the eastern city where she was buried. From then on the Cody family's specialty of trick and fancy shooting and lariat throwing had to be revised.

Tee Stokes, Two Braids Ora Woodman and Rocky Mountain Hank Walker were other mainstays in the Kemp company. Woodman was a white who had been raised by the Apache Indians and he carried an Indian name. Hank Walker was an old time stage driver who always drove the coach in the Kemp act entitled "Attack on a Stagecoach by Indians." The only western act requiring more props and persons was entitled "The Great Train Robbery." Lem and Blanch Hunter were in these acts and also in a specialty act of their own, coming to Kemp's from Buffalo Bill's competing Wild West Shows.

Genuine old stagecoaches were gone by 1890, but G. P. found one called Old Concord which had been stored away for years, and he coolly paid \$1,000 for it. Real Apache, Sioux and other tribes staged daily attacks on Old Concord and Hank Walker for eastern audiences in those pre-movie days. At times G. P. had to dampen the ardor of his



PART OF THE KEMP SHOW TROUP ABOUT 1894
WITH OLD CONCORD STAGECOACH IN THE BACKGROUND.

Indians who seemed to enjoy this particular act with a suspicious old time gusto. Old Concord was known to be eighty-seven years old when the Kemps used it in their 1905 season, but it was still in excellent condition. Hank Walker was thus attacked by Indians probably more times than any other American, living or dead. He stood straight as a ramrod, six feet six, far more a genuine representative of the old West than any of the Kemp brothers.

The business of show management became burdensome to G. P. Kemp by 1907. Bill Coe had married another Neuhauser girl in Gridley, and he stopped in La Mar, Missouri where the Kemps were then wintering for a visit. Coe had opened the first picture show in Oklahoma, but G. P. induced him to sell out and take over the next season as business manager of the Kemp shows. This left G. P. Kemp free to handle his performances, a deal which made the organization a better balanced one.

Coe was a businessman and Kemp a showman who didn't care for the financial worries, booking contracts and such. G. P. was a quick tempered man with little formal education, but he knew how to handle recalcitrant performers, be they show people or show horses. He never took a drink of liquor in his life and he demanded sobriety in his shows. If he ever caught anyone in his cups near show time, or found anyone drinking around the Indians, it quickly brought on a scene. G. P. had a flow of strong language for these breaches of show discipline with employees soon learned.

At one time the Kemps carried fifty highly trained horses, and another eighteen which defied all riders. The Kemp bulldogging acts with wild steers were the forerunner of present day rodeos. In their Great Train Robbery act, usually the climax of the performance, real trains were used with a hugh western backdrop much as the modern moving picture sets in Hollywood. The robbers put on a most convincing hold up, but in the end justice always triumphed as the vigilantes arrived in the nick of time and hung the bandits to a telegraph pole.

Syracuse, Troy and Atlantic City testified to the high quality of the Kemp Wild West Shows year after year. In July, 1897, Pittsburgh reported that "this is our third year in booking the Kemps, and we find them honest, reliable and trustworthy." At the 1896 Pittsburgh celebration a hugh fireworks picture of William B. McKinley was shown as a finale. He was then candidate for president. The usual eastern circuit was to play the cities mentioned and Louisville, Cincinnati, London and Hamilton in Ontario, Brooklyn, Coney Island, Providence, Hartford, Roanoke and Winston-Salem, ending the season in the warmer climate of Atlanta, Georgia. By 1912 the end of the wild west shows was inevitable as the new picture theatres were showing a western feature later known as the horse opera. The Kemps were showmen, but not moving picture actors. The show suspended.

Occasionally on these trips newcomers would join the Kemp shows and travel with them. At least two of these men came home with the Kemps to become residents of our section.³ When showing in Simco, Ontario, Abraham Kemp became acquainted with the Norris sisters. He married one and the other came to El Paso to marry Robert McHugh.

The Kemp shows played the New York State Fair in September, 1898, and the management of the fair wrote that "nothing but praise can be offered" and they complimented Mr. Kemp on his "straight-forward methods of doing business." In Baltimore in 1895 the exposition officials wrote that "we never saw better riders than M'lle Rosalia and the Kemp brothers. The Kemps are daring horsemen and fine gentlemen." Joseph G. Baker was mayor of El Paso in 1897, and as most local citizens, he had never seen the show. Away from home in an eastern city, he found the Kemp Brothers Wild West Shows in town and bought a ticket. "I was surprised at the high quality of their show," Mr. Baker wrote home, and he told the booking agent in the East that they would always find Mr. G. P. Kemp a "square dealing man; one who will do all that he contracts to do."

One of these contracts was to race three chariots around a half mile track with one Kemp man and one Kemp sister and another show-girl riding in each of the chariots, the Kemp's guaranteeing the time of the winner on a perfect track to be under a minute. There is no record of any accident ever happening in any of these dangerous, galloping races, so careful was the Kemp management and driving. They also contracted a specialty race between Frank Kemp on his fast horse and a greyhound called Lamplighter. The dog always beat the horse and rider, proving to the skeptical public that the greyhound, like the



LIDA KEMP.

MIDA KEMP.

cheetah, is one of the swiftest animals on earth.

Around 1912 or 1913 a bear roamed a well fenced lot at the Kemp's home quarters at Front and Fayette Streets, the last of the Kemp show props. Just why the bear was kept is not known. It was considered a pet and harmless until one day it clawed and mauled Mrs. G. P. Kemp, and then it was disposed of. Mrs. Kemp recovered, and not long thereafter she and her showman husband moved for the first time into the West they had portrayed for so many years in their shows. The two brothers, Frank and Abe, continued to live in El Paso until their death. So did Charles Stambach who traveled with them. Charlie was



MR. AND MRS. G. P. KEMP.

a home town boy whose trick riding was a show specialty. His home friends induced him to put on a riding exhibition at the fair in days when Charlie was well past his prime. On an untrained horse Stumbach swept by the grandstand and swooped up from the ground a handkerchief full of coins without losing any of them. It was Charlie's final performance, and no doubt it reminded him of more youthful days with the Kemp Wild West Shows when far more difficult stunts were a twice a day routine.

The last Kemp in El Paso was Norris Kemp,⁴ a genial electrician who, like his uncle Frank, was a confirmed bachelor. Norris dimly recalled the days of his boyhood which saw the final season of the Kemp Sisters Wild West Shows, and he looked forward to this chapter of the El Paso Story. His death occurred November 9, 1953. Norris didn't live to read about the Kemp organization which for two decades spread the name of El Paso, Illinois through the eastern cities as the hometown of a high class, square dealing western attraction.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Frank Marion Kemp, (1866-1938); Abraham Jackson Kemp, (1867-1937); and George Pendelton Kemp, (1864-1933).
2. Mida Kemp married Lee Barnes, nephew of Al G. Barnes of circus fame. She died in 1924. Lida Kemp's real name was Elida. She married A. H. Brown and today is quietly retired in Sierra Madras, California.
3. One was Martin Feeney who joined the Kems when their show was in his home town of Providence, Rhode Island. The other was the elder John Ferguson, who joined the show in Pittsburgh, wintered with Mr. Kemp in La Mar, Missouri, and later moved to a Gridley farm which became his home. G. P. Kemp lived in Gridley before he moved to El Paso.
4. Norris Kemp and William E. Coe provided most of the material used in this chapter. There is little about the Kems in the *El Paso Journal* files. Both died as this book was being prepared; Coe early in 1954.

Early El Paso



BUSINESS BLOCKS 40 AND 41 IN 1895.
NOTE THE NEW WATER TOWER UNCOMPLETED.



THE CENTER FRONT STREET BLOCK 42 AS IT
WAS REBUILT AFTER THE 1894 FIRE.



LOOKING NORTH FROM FRONT STREET ON ELM STREET IN 1895.



THE OLD WATER TOWER AREA WAS A BACKYARD EYE-SORE IN 1890.
JAS. H. WATHEN'S HOME IN BACKGROUND.



EQUIPMENT USED TO COMBAT THE GREAT 1894 FIRE.



FRONT ST. BLOCK 42. THESE BUILDINGS WERE THE ONES BURNED JULY 19, 1894. THIS IS THE OLDEST STREET SCENE PICTURE OF EARLY EL PASO NOW EXISTING.



AS FRONT STREET BLOCK 42 LOOKED A WEEK AFTER
THE GREAT FIRE OF JULY 19, 1894.



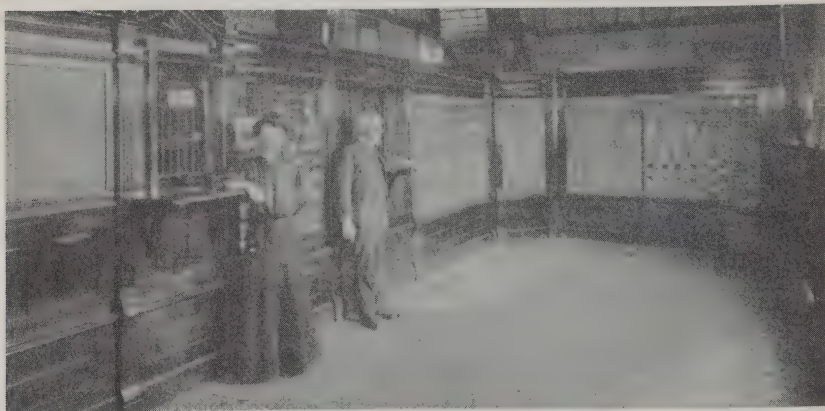
ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF THE FINE "EAGLE BLOCK" BUILDING THE MORNING OF JULY 20, 1894. THE CHARRED, WOODEN EAGLE FELL FROM THE TOP OF THE WALL, SEEN HERE, AND WAS RECOVERED AND REPAIRED BY S. Y. LISHNESS, HIS GRANDSON HAS IT ATOP HIS OHIO BARN IN 1954.



AFTER THE FIRE, THE EL PASO JOURNAL SET UP IN THE OLD CREAMERY ON MAIN ST.



AFTER THE FIRE NEW STORES WERE QUICKLY BUILT.
THIS WAS A. H. WAITE'S HARDWARE STORE.



THE 1900 POST OFFICE OF SILAS D. PATTON LOOKED JUST AS IT DOES IN
1954, STELLA PATTON (SCHLINK) WAS HIS ASSISTANT.



AN ENLARGED EL PASO JOURNAL FORCE MOVED BACK INTO THE NEW BANK
BUILDING IN 1895. THIS PICTURE TAKEN ABOUT 1905.



THOMETZ BAKER (1895)
NOW RITTERBUSCH DRUG STORE.



KRIDNERS CARRIAGE AND BICYCLE
SHOP (1895) NOW EL PASO PRODUCE
CO. J. E. WENDLAND.



WESTCOTT'S STORE (1895)
NOW KIL'S TAVERN.



PANOLA CHURCH, 1900.



VALENTINE'S GROCERY NOW THORNTON-BENSON
AGENCY, 119 W. FRONT ST. (1895)



M. H. RENDER'S SALOON (1895) NOW 115 W. FRONT ST.-THE BOWER GARAGE.



GROVE'S STORE (1895) NOW NOHREN'S GROCERY AT 111 W. FRONT ST.



HENDRON BUILDING (1895) NOW THE WOODFORD COUNTY NATIONAL BANK.



STRICKLAND AND PORTER MEAT MARKET (1895) NOW THE
SNOW INSURANCE AGENCY ON ELM ST.



J. S. COLLINS TAILOR SHOP (1895) NOW THE
TUCKER BARBER SHOP ON N. ELM ST.



E. N. ARMSTRONG'S MUSIC STORE (1895) NOW BAITY ANNEX ON NO. ELM ST.



PARMELEE AND KORNER MEAT MARKET (1895) NOW STORE-
HOUSE OF THE LATE NORRIS KEMP.



SOMERS AND THORPE MEAT MARKET (1895) NOW THE KROGER STORE.
MARTIN LOESCH, MEAT CUTTER OUT FRONT.



J. T. KEARNEY'S SALOON (1895) AT 47 W. FRONT



FRITZEN'S SALOON (1895) NOW THE ARBOR CAFE AT 45 W. FRONT ST.



MCCORD GROCERY (1895) NOW THOS. O'LEARY'S GAMBLE STORE.



GEO. BURSTER'S CLOTHING STORE (1895). STILL OPERATING BUT NOW THE MARTEN CLOTHING CO.—WAITES HARDWARE NOW THE HORNSBY STORE.



D. A. SMITH & SON—GROCERIES NOW WILLIAMS TAVERN, FITZGERALD'S SALOON NOW KITCHELL INS. AGENCY, GORDON'S OFFICES ON 2ND FLOOR (1895) - PUBLIC TELEPHONES—DRUGS, ETC. NOW HOCKER'S ROSZELL CAFE.



F. L. KYSER'S JEWELRY STORE (1895) STILL OPERATING AS F. G. BERTA'S.



1895—WHEN THE 1ST NAT'L BANK BLDG. WAS NEW—NOTE OLD FIRE BELL LOCATION. LUNCH ROOM, MICHEL'S DRUG STORE, 1ST NAT'L BANK—NOW MICHEL'S DRUG STORE, EL PASO NATIONAL BANK.



DR. S. J. MOFFAT, VETERINARIAN AND LIVERY STABLE. HAAS TIN SHOP AT LEFT (1895). NOW NEW EL PASO TELEPHONE CO. BUILDING THERE.



THE CLIFTON HOUSE WHEN NEW. (1895)



THE C. G. SHAFFER HOME (1895) ONLY BUILDING ON BLOCK 42 TO SURVIVE
THE JULY 19, 1894 FIRE. NOW HOUSE OF MR. & MRS. H. G. COSS.



MAZON CAFE, L. A. GARDINER JEWELRY (1895) NOW THE CAMPBELL CAFE
AND EL PASO POST NO. 59 OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.



THOS. DOYLE'S STORE (1895), NOW THE
HUGHES PLUMBING CO. AT 27 E. FRONT ST.



HAAS PLUMBING CO. AND HARDWARE (1895), NOW THE
FRANK BENEDICT HEATING STORE.



SHREVE AND McWILLIAMS STORES (1895),
NOW FRANKE PRODUCE, DRI GAS STORE.



EAST SIDE FURNITURE STORE (1895),
NOW FOLTZ MOTOR CO. APPLIANCE SECTION.



SILAS PATTON'S ESTEY ORGAN-NEW HOME SEWING MACHINE STORE-
DR. M. V. GUNN (1895) (UPSTAIRS) NOW FOLTZ MOTOR COMPANY.



DAVID STROTHER RESIDENCE AT 240 E. THIRD ST., PRESENT DAY WOLK RESI-
DENCE. HE WAS THE FIRST COLORED VOTER IN U. S. AS A RESULT OF THE
15TH AMENDMENT. MRS. DAVID A. STROTHER AT THE GATE.



THE BEST OF TRANSPORTATION FOR AN 1895 ILLINOIS WINTER.
A LIVERYMAN HOLDS DR. STUBBLEFIELD'S TEAM.



SEIDEL STORE.



PATTON AND BONER CLOTHING
STORE, NOW THE CAMPBELL'S CON-
FECTIONERY, 21 E. FRONT ST.
SILAS PATTON, WM. H. BONAR, DR.
SAMUEL L. KERR—ON BALCONY:
DR. C. O. PATTON, DDS.

CHAPTER 9

Civic Development of El Paso

The September 9, 1865 issue of *The El Paso True Patriot* published an ordinance regarding certain sidewalks, signed by J. D. Park, president and P. Boyles, clerk of the village board of trustees. In the November 25, 1865 issue of the same paper, ordinances are signed by Park as president and J. Fishburn, clerk. W. R. Willis is mentioned in several later issues of *The El Paso Journal* as the first justice of the peace. Other records of the early village government have not been located.

The earliest reference to El Paso in the acts of the Illinois General Assembly is dated February 22, 1861, when "An Act to incorporate the Town of El Paso" was approved and published that year in *Illinois Private Laws*, pages 625-30. This act provided for a president and four trustees to be elected annually, gave the boundaries, duties of officers, provided for taxes, elections, ordinances, road, labor, and education. Information regarding the first officials is meager, but it is certain Park and the town clerks were acting under this authority.

El Paso was organized under a special charter as a city in 1867. It was composed of two wards, the First on the east side of the Illinois Central, and the Second west of the tracks. The first council room was in the Strathman Building. After the fire of 1882, city offices were moved to the Eagle Block which burned in 1894. When rebuilt as it stands today, the city council set up offices on the second floor, remaining there until the City Hall was erected in 1908. While some city records were lost in these fires, the big city minute book which recorded all of the Council's activities from 1867 was saved and is still in existence.

Joseph Reichel began construction of the present City Hall October 8, 1907, and completed it the next spring. The two-story brick structure contains a large council room and three smaller office rooms on the second floor, with a polling place, jail, and fire department rooms on the ground floor. The building committee, composed of Omer North, John S. Welch and William J. Render filed a report showing the cost as \$5,955.33, financed by the sale of \$6,000 of city hall bonds.

Until 1891 El Paso had two representatives on the county board, one from the township and one from the city as provided in the special city

charter. J. P. Ferrell was the first city supervisor elected. The office was discontinued when the city reorganized under the general laws.

The organization of Woodford County had been authorized in an act approved by Governor Thomas Carlin February 17, 1841, and three county commissioners had governed the county until 1854, when a proposal to organize the county into townships carried by a vote of 692 to 193 and twelve original townships were defined. The first board of supervisors was elected in April, 1855 with the El Paso area a part of Palestine Township until 1862. That year El Paso Township was organized with W. W. Sears our first supervisor.

The question of reorganizing under the general law carried by a large majority in the spring election of 1891, and El Paso's double representation on the county board ended. The city was then divided into three wards instead of the previous two, the third ward being formed from all that part of the city south of the T. P. & W. railroad tracks.

STREETS. El Paso streets were named by the two city founders who followed with a tree-planting program which today adds much beauty and comfort to the town. Elms and soft maples predominated and storms over the years have destroyed many; recently some elms have died of the new elm tree disease. A plan for replacement is a part of the long-range program now being slowly developed.

Walks for a time were simply paths along the roadside, followed by cinder and board walks. In the summer of 1865 the town board directed the construction of a sidewalk "on Front Street between Cherry and Pine, to be ten feet wide, laid on sills . . . and covered with two inch planks laid crosswise." As part of the walk was not completed by the time specified, a tax of \$1.30 per front foot was levied against the property owners. Sidewalks "four feet wide, made of one inch boards laid crosswise on three sills . ." were specified in certain residential areas. The first stone was used for a street crossing on Central Street east of the Clifton House in October, 1895 and on another one block south soon after. The first vitrified brick sidewalk was laid in the summer of 1899 on the south half of Block 21, adjacent to the Catholic Church. Nearly three miles of new walks were built in 1900. Cement crossings were adopted August 1, 1907.

On May 19, 1900 the city council voted to discontinue wooden walks, but agreed the city would pay half the cost of permanent type walks. In 1953 the Council decided that sidewalks in front of property are the responsibility of the property owner. All of the wooden walks and many of the brick walks have been replaced by cement in recent years.

The city ordered the installation of hitching racks along Front Street, March 25, 1869, to be paid for by adjoining property owners. They were made of heavy chains, suspended from posts set at regular intervals adjacent to the sidewalks. Later two inch pipe was substi-

tuted for the chains. Merchants requested removal of the hitching racks from Front Street as early as 1899 but the council refused, and it was not until the three blocks of this business district was paved that the hitching racks were removed. When the 1915 paving was done other racks were removed, but some few remained until 1922 when *The Journal* reported the final ones "were removed on Sycamore Street June 5."

Mud made the streets almost impassable in the early spring, and in the summer and fall the dust was almost as deep. In 1907 the El Paso Business Mens' Association purchased a large sprinkler tank and thousands of gallons of water were sprinkled on the streets each summer in an effort to lay the dust with only temporary success. Road drags were continually used to keep the streets free of ruts after heavy rains and during the winter thaws.

The business district carried the most traffic, so the three blocks on Front Street between Sycamore and Cherry were paved with brick, the first paving in El Paso. Keys and McNamara of La Salle did this



EAST FRONT STREET ABOUT 1910.

between May 6 and June 20, 1907, at a cost of \$14,546.34. With the hitching racks removed, the space was utilized to make the sidewalk in front of the business houses four feet wider.

In 1911 a committee composed of Frank B. Stitt, George R. Curtiss, Albert E. Fleming, William H. Hoagland, Peter Donner, Dr. F. H. Henderson, Elmer H. Gray, A. S. McKinney, J. J. DeMotte and Dr. R. E. Gordon underwrote the cost of a car of road oil which was spread on the streets to stop the dust menace. Property owners who desired that protection paid per lineal foot for their coverage and approximately three miles of streets were oiled in July that year. As El Paso was one of the first towns in Illinois to adopt such program, it created

wide interest. It proved a fine improvement over the previous dust clouds, so the program was extended annually.

A contract was let March 9, 1915 to I. D. Lain of Bloomington for the paving of thirteen more blocks with brick. Work began in May was repeatedly interrupted by rain, and it was not until September 24, 1915 that these streets were opened to traffic.

Oiling the city streets had proved such an improvement that the plan was extended to the rural roads leading into El Paso in 1915. The road between Gridley and El Paso was oiled by the cooperation of business men in both towns. The program of oiling roads was gradually adopted and extended by township and county officials and was widely used prior to the spreading of gravel on these roads.

In November, 1922 the city council awarded I. D. Lain a contract for fifty-six blocks of cement paving which was poured in the summer of 1923. Since the state had established its present system of hard roads by then, that part of Main Street became a joint project between city and state officials, the city paying \$10,708 for its share of the four blocks. A single block on Second Street between Sycamore and Summit was paved in 1926.

A single block on Second Street between Sycamore and Summit was paved in 1926.

An eight foot strip along the T. P. & W. railroad was leased from them in 1931 so the three Front Street blocks between Sycamore and Cherry could be widened, allowing parking on both sides of the street. The railroad was released from some remaining paving assessments in exchange for the lease. Except for this release, they had paid for one-half of a full mile of paving along their right-of-way in El Paso. Kammerer's poured this concrete slab at considerably less than the estimated cost of \$2,300, and the street was opened for traffic July 4, 1931.

In the late 1920's and early 1930's auxiliary streets in El Paso were covered with gravel, the town using its share of the two per cent gas tax levied by the state for this purpose. Oil was later spread over the gravel base, providing a better road and eliminating dust. Between July and October, 1931 forty blocks were graded, graveled and oiled at a cost of \$6,500.

Central Street between Front and First was widened along the Central ground in June, 1940, and the street corners rounded, providing easier traffic and parking. Sidewalks were laid through the two parks, replacing older ones, under the direction of Ira Hamm, engineer.

In 1949 one-half of the gas tax normally due El Paso was relinquished to the state in payment of our share of the costs of a new Main Street paving on Route 24.

El Paso Post No. 6026 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsored a new parking lot in September, 1949. The area along the T. P. & W.

railroad between Walnut and Sycamore Streets was leveled and covered with crushed rock, and a low guard rail erected along the tracks for safety. A similar parking strip was built in the summer of 1953 by the Federated Church along the north side of Franklin Park to provide better parking facilities there.

In preparation for city mail delivery which had been discussed for some time, El Paso Post No. 59 of the American Legion installed metal street signs at all intersections in El Paso early in 1948. In August the project was completed by numbering all residences, the numbers being on a decimal fraction system as to location rather than in regular numerical sequence. The business houses along the three main Front Street blocks were numbered in sequence.

The first hard road was constructed on state route 8, the old Corn Belt trail, and was built in 1923-1924. In 1951 the strip between El Paso and Gridley was completely rebuilt, as that section of Route 24 had deteriorated badly. State route 2, now U. S. 51 along Fayette Street, originally called the Meridian Highway, was built in 1924 and is still in use.

A number of serious accidents occurred at the intersection of these two national highways as traffic increased. On March 7, 1927 the city council suggested the usual stop-and-go electrical signals, which state highway officials approved. The signals were completed August 5, 1929 at a cost of \$1,133, but were not as successful as hoped for. They were removed in 1941 and the regular state four-way stop signs replaced them. While accidents still occasionally occur, none has been fatal since all traffic has been required to stop at the dangerous corner.

WATER. When the surveyors platted the town of El Paso in the spring of 1854, it bore little resemblance to the present physical appearance of the community. At the southeast side some twenty acres lay under water. Another pond was nearby on the present George McKinley farm. At the north side of town a similar area east of the railroad was covered with water. West of Route 51 on the present Louis Knecht property two other ponds remained most of the year. Where the center business block is now located another pond stretched so near the Illinois Central tracks that boys paddled rafts about in search of frogs.

After the village was established wells were dug and cisterns built by most residents for a dependable water supply. Thomas McClellan, who built the first house in El Paso at Front and Chestnut Streets, also dug the first well which soon provided the neighborhood with water. Public wells were located at the southwest corner of Franklin Park and the southeast corner of Jefferson Park, and another was on Elm Street close to Front. The two park wells were ten inch bored wells, lined with octagonal wooden curbs made by L. S. Calkins. A large trough was near each well where cattle and horses were watered.

The Elm Street well was dug some four feet in diameter. It had an enclosed booth, a windlass drum and an oaken bucket attached to a long rope. A. H. Wolk recalls how the boys enjoyed winding the windlass and drinking the cool water, sometimes from a dipper but more often directly from the bucket.

On August 30, 1881, the city purchased the site of the Grafft planing mill on Front Street between Walnut and Summit from M. L. Van Meter, who had acquired the property after David Grafft's death. The price was \$300. When the planing mill was established in 1856 or early the following year, a well was dug to provide water for the steam boiler. It tapped the same vein which supplied water for the Illinois Central at their tank at the south side of town.

This well was enlarged to ten feet in diameter to a depth of sixty feet and was walled with stone by David Glimpse and John Hibbs, who received \$200. In March, 1882 the American Well Works bored two three-inch holes fifty-four feet from the bottom of the dug well and installed iron tubings and sand screens at a cost of \$255.

July 3, 1882 the council voted bonds to provide the following: a forty foot tower; a tank, pump and twenty-foot windmill for \$1,921, plus \$885 paid Fairbanks, Morse & Co. for the tower and pump. Four blocks of steel-hooped wooden mains were laid from the tower east on Front Street to Cherry for \$1,600. The cost was paid from the city treasury as has been done in extending water mains thereafter to all parts of the city.

On October 10, 1882, with only four feet of water in the new tower tank which was just being filled, fire broke out in the El Paso House and all the business houses in the east Front Street block were destroyed. Because of the uncertainty of windmill pumping, engine equipment was purchased from Fairbanks, Morse & Co. in July, 1884, at a cost of \$770. An additional thirteen blocks of wooden mains were laid in that year. As all the trenches were dug by hand, it was a slow process. C. F. Curtiss recalls how the boys found these ditches an excellent place to play games like cops and robbers in the evening hours.

The first block east from the water tower was replaced in July and August, 1896 with our first iron mains. James Fitzgerald recalls he was street superintendent when these first iron mains were laid, as well as when the first water meters were installed and the first paving laid. Thirty men replaced the old wooden mains along Front and Pine Streets that November and December with six-inch and four-inch iron mains. In 1908 more replacements were made, and all wooden mains were replaced by 1933. Seventy blocks of water mains now serve the city. In 1952 an instrument to locate leaks was purchased, saving thousands of gallons daily and reducing the pumping by as much as one third.

After the Eagle Block was destroyed in the fire of July 19, 1894, the council voted October 1 to use the insurance from the loss of the city

council rooms to build a new water tower. The sum was \$3,250. The P. E. Lane Iron & Bridge Co. was given the contract to erect a ninety foot tower and a 100,000 gallon water tank, both steel. Much of the material used had been part of the fire protection for the World's Fair of 1893 in Chicago. The work was hindered by bad weather that winter, and in April, after much of the scaffolding was erected, it was blown down in a storm. The work dragged. In October, 1895, the Illinois Central took down its water tank in El Paso to begin using exclusively the one north of Panola. Lane's workmen were not paid, so both businessmen and laborers threatened to levy on the unfinished tower.

In February, 1896 an agreement was reached with Lane and the city took over the tower "as is," and paid all the outstanding bills. Keiser Van Leer of Bloomington supervised the completion of the work, the cost to the city being about the same as originally planned. The 480 ton tank is 100 feet from the ground and holds 3,734 barrels when full, more than expected. The old wooden tank had produced twenty-six pounds of pressure in the mains; the steel tank produces forty-five.

Water meters were first installed in 1907. Prior to that time rates were computed on the number of taps, and the amount used made no difference in the rate. Increased water consumption made drilling a new well necessary, and August 2, 1926, the council awarded E. H. Johnson & Son of Bloomington a contract at \$8.50 per foot, including piping, screen to be extra. The well was successful and drilling stopped September 10, 1926 at 118 feet. The total cost was \$1,067. The council then had the same company put down a four-inch test hole west of the pump house, and if they struck water they were to drill a ten-inch well at \$5 per foot. They reached a strong water vein at 118 feet on October 26, 1926, unquestionably the same vein but the two wells provided double pumping capacity.

The council then enlarged the pump house to include the new well and purchased a pump from the Aurora Well Works completely installed for \$2,773, on May 16, 1927. El Paso has adequate water and adequate pumping facilities to meet any reasonable emergency.

The construction of a water softening plant was authorized by the council May 21, 1945. The water is extremely hard and the plan was advocated by many for some years prior to its adoption. A bond issue of \$64,000 was authorized on August 20, 1945; this was to construct the water treatment plant, extend the mains so dead ends would be eliminated, install an engine drive unit in well No. 2 and to provide meter repair equipment and parts. The 3% bonds were to be paid from water revenue only.

Warren & Van Praag, Inc., of Decatur were the consulting engineers, and the Barnes Bros. Contracting Co. of Washburn were given the contract to build the tan brick veneer building to house the water softening plant. It was erected at the corner of Front and Walnut Streets at a cost of \$22,472. The treatment and pumping equipment

was provided by Albert Warner of Hoopeston, and cost \$19,998; he also received the contract for extending the distribution system for an added \$11,517. Work began early in 1946 and was completed that fall.

POST OFFICE. The Caleb Horn post office three miles southwest of El Paso and the S. Y. Barnard office west of Panola were the first in the area. Absolom McClum was the first carrier going through to Spring Bay, and John Harrison the second; both carried the mail on horseback. A trip to Ottawa was made twice weekly. The Horn post office, called Roxan, was moved into Kappa in 1853 and the Barnard office, called Josephine, was moved to Panola the same year.

On March 21, 1857 William M. Jenkins was appointed the first postmaster of El Paso by President James Buchanan. The office was in the Jenkins general store, but the postmaster frequently carried the mail in his hat and delivered it as he met the residents in his daily tasks. On March 19, 1861, Hezekiah T. Buckley became postmaster and moved the office to a building on Elm Street north of the present City Hall. He resigned after two years and Mrs. Martha A. Robinson was appointed February 28, 1863. Otho P. Richards was appointed March 9, 1865 but served only until August 14, 1866 when Mrs. Robinson was reappointed. Mrs. Elizabeth C. Willis became postmistress April 8, 1867 and served until March 3, 1868 when her father, J. H. Moore succeeded her.

Sometime between 1863 and 1867 the post office was moved from Elm Street to rooms at the rear of the Shur, Tompkins & Co. Bank in the Gibson building in Block 43. In 1871 Mr. Moore purchased a small building which had housed the offices of Ingersoll, Harper & Cassell,



THE CAMPBELL HOUSE CROSSING ABOUT 1910, SHOWING THE OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING OPPOSITE THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

lawyers. He moved the building across the street east to a plot leased from the Illinois Central and transferred the post office to it.

Martin H. Cassell succeeded Mr. Moore on January 1, 1880, serving until his election as county judge, when Allison M. Cavan was appointed March 28, 1887. On August 10 that year, M. H. Cassell was killed in the Chatsworth wreck, as noted in the Campbell House chapter. It was during his term the office was moved to a room in the Eagle Block, now 20 North Central, but in November it was returned to the Moore Building where it remained until 1891. Robert Robinson received his appointment December 23, 1890 and was succeeded by Lewis M. Kerr on May 5, 1894. Kerr died April 28, 1896 and his father, Dr. Samuel L. Kerr, took over the office at the request of the son's bondsmen until the appointment of Isaac J. Jenkins, Jr., May 29, 1896.

Silas D. Patton was named postmaster July 1, 1898, and he moved the office to its present location July 1, 1901. On April 3, 1902 two mail routes into the country were put in operation, Will Klug carrying on No. 1 and James Barlow on Route 2. A third route was added in Patton's second term with Earl Carlin as carrier.

Frank G. Robinson received his first appointment February 12, 1907, and was succeeded by John F. Bosworth February 26, 1915. During Bosworth's term the office was advanced to second class status. Mr. Robinson was again appointed May 28, 1920 and served until May 5, 1933 when John J. McGuire took over the office. McGuire resigned February 1, 1948 because of ill health, and Peter J. Roth the present postmaster succeeded him. His staff includes Miss Minnie Hynes, assistant and Harold Bonar and Mrs. Ursula Stitt, clerks. James Kauth and Henry Rippel are the two city mail carriers, a service launched January 1, 1950.

Charles Edward Barclay has carried mail on Route 1 since 1928 when he succeeded John Burtis, after previously serving as assistant postmaster from March 4, 1918, with about a year out for army service. Owen E. Carroll succeeded James Barlow on Route 2 August 20, 1921, beginning his deliveries with Barlow's horse and two-wheeled cart. Barclay has always used a car. Grover Brines, Sr. was carrier on Route 3 when it was discontinued in 1942 and the route divided between the other two carriers. With much of the Panola routes absorbed by El Paso carriers, the two routes were lengthened until on March 1, 1954 Mr. Barclay was driving seventy-one miles and Mr. Carroll sixty miles daily.

CEMETERIES. Though our first city residences were built in 1856 and others followed in quick succession, it was not until August 11, 1859 that a group met in the Third Street Schoolhouse to discuss the establishment of a cemetery. William Branch presided and Robert Jenkins served as secretary. Plans were laid to form a stock company to be called the El Paso Cemetery Association, and to solicit subscriptions to be used in purchasing a site. Section 4, located east of

the village, was part of the Illinois land grant to the Illinois Central, which agreed to sell the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter for \$1,000. A committee was named to complete the deal, the members being Alexander Hawthorn, Dr. S. L. Kerr, Robert A. McClellan, George L. Gibson and L. B. McOmber.

Over a year elapsed before the committee reported at a meeting held August 17, 1860. Reverend Branch again presided and Dr. Stockwell acted as Secretary. The committee reported that the necessary stock had been subscribed in shares of \$10 each, and the purchase agreement for the land was approved. With the exception of Mr. Gibson, replaced by Dr. Stockwell, the original committee was elected as trustees of the new cemetery association. Dr. Kerr became president, Mr. Hawthorn, vice president and Mr. Gibson was elected treasurer.

W. R. Willis, W. H. Boies and G. L. Gibson were named to prepare a charter at a meeting September 7, 1860. It was decided to enclose the east half of the forty acres with a fence. An assessment of six per cent was ordered, payable at once, and it was voted to turn the ground over to the lot owners when funds were received from sale of lots to reimburse the stockholders. The charter, dated January 14, 1861, was approved by Governor Yates February 14.

The south ten acres was platted in 1861 by I. J. Marsh, county surveyor, and recorded at Metamora, then county seat. The north line of the platted area was the street at the south side of the mausoleum, but only those lots south of the Wathen and Schafer lots at the ends of the diagonal drives were put on sale. In 1885 the three tiers of lots next north, to the present mausoleum site, were staked and put on sale. In 1936 the four north tiers were opened. A tier of lots on the south side of the cemetery was secured in 1917. This ground was an existing township highway, then vacated, and a quit claim deed was secured from adjoining land owner James W. Cleary for \$175 for his portion of the old unused road.

The original price of lots was \$10, one-half cash with one year's time at ten per cent on the other half. At the April 15, 1861 meeting it was decided to sell the west twenty acres of the original purchase, and it was transferred to Lewis B. McOmber June 12, 1868, his brother Horace taking the north half.

For years a wooden sidewalk connected the city with the cemetery at the city limits. In 1903 a cement walk was laid to the gates costing \$728. In 1926 the present ornamental entrance was built and the half-mile long road covered with crushed stone, allocated from the state by Governor Small. Much of the cost of the new road, \$2,502, was contributed by subscriptions.

A 200 crypt mausoleum of steel reinforced concrete blocks was erected in 1908 on Blocks 22 and 33 near the north half of the cemetery by A. E. Fleming and J. J. DeMotte. Mr. Fleming later purchased the DeMotte interest and the building came into the cemetery associ-

ation possession after Mr. Fleming's death. In 1930 a gravel road was constructed through the eastern portion of the grounds, connecting with the township road to the north, and an iron fence was erected along the road. This portion, about the size of the adjoining St. Joseph Catholic cemetery, has not been platted.

The brick building for use of the sexton was built in 1892 by James McAldon at a cost of \$885. A large cistern was dug to provide water for flowers and plants. As the cemetery is outside the city limits, there seems no legal way to pipe water to the grounds.

James T. Hewitt was appointed the first sexton January 17, 1863 and continued until November 16, 1891. He was a bachelor and lived alone in the southeast part of El Paso, and during his absence on February 21, 1890, his home burned and the only book with the earliest burial records was destroyed.

It has been impossible to duplicate that record, as the recording of vital statistics was not done as it is today. Because of this, there is some doubt as to the identity of the first person interred. *The El Paso Journal* of December 26, 1885 states: "Three children of Isaac J. Jenkins, Sr. died of scarlet fever so close together they were buried in one grave, the first burials in the new cemetery." George Curtiss had much time thereafter for research and historical study and we believe his writings of a later date more accurate than were Editor Meek's in 1885. *The Journal* under Curtiss, said on August 20, 1936: "It is believed the first burial in Evergreen was the body of Ethel Branch, daughter of the Baptist pastor who presided at the organization meeting in August, 1859. The child was two or three years of age." Mrs. H. H. Baker and others may recall a statement of Robert Hitch, an early settler of the community, who said a woman dropped dead in the depot while waiting to change cars, could not be identified and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, the first burial there. Another point to confuse is the fact that a number of monuments in Evergreen show deaths prior to the date the cemetery was organized. All these were removed from farm graves to the new cemetery, for burials were often made in the early days on the farm. Later nearly all of these were removed to established cemeteries but a few are being farmed over today.

Mr. Hewitt's service of nearly twenty-nine years was the longest any sexton has served. William Carver succeeded Hewitt, and then came

March 4, 1896: J. D. Reid

1897: David North

1912: Percy Kingdon

1918: Edward Faulk

March 25, 1932: William H. Bonar

November 12, 1939: Charles S. Abbott

March 31, 1945: William H. Gossmeier.

Today James Fitzgerald and Joseph Fentress take care of all three El Paso cemeteries, the work at Evergreen being under a board composed of Ivan Snow, president; Loren Ludwig, secretary-treasurer; R. W. Vincent, Richard Mayne and P. H. Andrews, trustees. On August 14, 1914 a plan for individual endowments for perpetual care of lots was adopted, and the cost set at \$50 for a full lot or \$25 for a half lot. Lots were sold thereafter with this cost included. Because income from invested funds became sharply lower, it was necessary to seek added contributions from lot owners and interested parties in 1952 so that the cemetery might be maintained in its usual fine condition. The price of lots today is necessarily higher, but the perpetual care seems assured.

On August 4, 1870, William Neifing received a deed for 2.70 acres in the northwest corner of the Evergreen Cemetery. The following day he transferred the property to Bishop Foley of Chicago, head of the Roman Catholic Church, Illinois Diocese. It was named the Saint Joseph's Cemetery, and has been the burial site for the German members of the St. Mary's congregation in El Paso.

On October 4, 1870, Bishop Foley purchased a plot of land one and one-half miles north of town on the present Route 51 from John and Rosetta DeBolt. This plot is named the St. Mary's Cemetery and is used by the Irish members of St. Mary's Church. James Fitzgerald has been sexton of both these cemeteries since 1938.

LIGHTS AND POWER. It was not until 1890 that an effort was made to provide street lights for the streets of the village. The minutes of the October 6 meeting of the council stated: "A proposition to furnish street lamps, gratis, on Second Street, the city to furnish the oil to light and keep in good order, was on motion adopted. On motion the supervisor was instructed to keep the street lamps cleaned and filled with oil and in good order; also the night watchman was to light and extinguish the same." Just who furnished these first lamps we cannot learn.

A contract was let September 14, 1891 by the City Council to M. A. Adams and Lee S. Straight by which they agreed to provide fifty electric lights of thirty-two candle power, and to pump water for the city. They were to receive \$750 per annum for the lights and \$500 for the pumping. They erected a plant on West Front Street next to the water tower with power furnished by a seventy horsepower engine. When the lights were first turned on November 21, 1891, the project had grown to include sixty-seven street lights and over 200 lights installed by various merchants. Although these 16 candle-power lights were a great improvement, several aldermen remained skeptical, one freely predicting that "the first good wind will blow them out."

Straight sold his interest to R. W. Gough early in 1894, and that fall a seventy-foot smokestack was erected to replace the sheet iron makeshifts previously used. The plant was soon crowded to capacity,

and when several new buildings were erected in Block 42 a new dynamo was installed, increasing the capacity from 650 to 1,500 lights.

J. L. Bonar bought Gough's interest in early 1897. The office was located in a small building on East Front Street, just west of John Berg's present office. George Zinser was in charge of the light plant for a number of years. Elmer H. Gray came to El Paso in 1901, his father having purchased the light plant from Bonar and Adams. He served as manager until April 1, 1912, when the plant was bought by the McKinley system. Elmer was retained as local manager in charge of construction of fifty miles of high tension lines which connected Hudson, El Paso, Gridley, Meadows and Chenoa to the main power house in Bloomington. The line later was extended to Lexington. Mr. Gray moved to Jacksonville in 1916.

Electric power was limited in time, as well as volume, under local management. Lights were turned on at 6 p. m. and off at midnight until 1912, and it was not until May of that year that daytime service was



THE MIDDLE BLOCK, WEST FRONT STREET, ABOUT 1900.

available. Until some time after the electric lights came, motors were operated by water power for grinding coffee, spice and similar chores. Curtiss and Williams operated the press for their *Saturday Review* with a water motor, and Dr. J. M. Fishburn operated the equipment in his dental office with a similar motor.

Current from Bloomington became available March 8, 1913 for daytime use, with night service supplied by the local plant for a week before it was dismantled. The company continued to be known as the El Paso Light & Power Co. until February, 1924.

A project suggested by the El Paso Post No. 59, The American Legion, was adopted by the El Paso Businessmens' Association, and during the fall of 1928 funds were raised through the contributions of store owners, based on the frontage, which provided ornamental lights in the business district. The project was authorized by the city council August 8, 1928, and the lights were installed in November by John Maple of Fairbury.

When a new fifty-year franchise was granted the Illinois Power Company on July 9, 1951, the company agreed to install a modern lighting system in the business area. Because of material shortage, the lights were not installed until the fall of 1952. Twenty-seven lights were located on the four blocks of Front Street between Sycamore and Chestnut, two each at the intersections of Route 24 with the state aid road on Oak Street and the Fayette Street intersection with Route 51. John Maple also made this new installation. The old ornamental lights and posts were sold by the city at \$10 each and have been installed near the various churches to provide better lighted areas.

The brick sub-station south of the T. P. & W. on Chestnut Street, with 300 kilowatt power and 2,300 volt capacity was erected in late 1912. In 1945 an all-steel outdoor plant was erected two blocks south of Route 24 on Oak Street. It is a 450 kilowatt station carrying 6,900 volts; the transformers can be changed to increase its capacity materially when necessary.

The Rural Electrification Association extended service into the El Paso rural areas through the Corn Belt Electric Cooperative lines built in 1937-1938, the first power being available in 1938. Ivan Snow and Edward Kearney are directors in this cooperative from our district, the main offices being in Bloomington. It purchases its power from the Illinois Power Company through a sub-station carrying high voltage which was built on the Michael Crowe corner three miles south of El Paso. Today there are few rural homes in the area which do not have all the electrical conveniences of the city dwellers.

EL PASO SOUGHT COUNTY SEAT. In 1867 El Paso asked the board of supervisors to move the county seat from Metamora, presenting the argument that with two railroads El Paso offered the better transportation facilities of that day. Robert G. Ingersoll served as spokesman for El Paso, offering the Board \$30,000 if the transfer was made. His offer was later red-lined on the official records.

The question came up for vote June 3, 1867, the county rejecting the El Paso bid by the narrow margin of 1911 to 1901 votes. Spoiled ballots had been considered "NO" votes, so the matter was taken up for court review but the decision was against the move, though a bill was presented in the state legislature March 10, 1869, authorizing the "Township of El Paso to issue bonds and levy taxes for the purpose of building a Court House and Jail in said town." El Paso's project

failed, and in 1894, after contests between Roanoke and Metamora, Eureka offered to deed the county their city square for the location of a new courthouse, and secured approval in the election which followed. The courthouse was completed in 1897 with El Pasoan George Andrews one of the building committee, and the matter of county seat seems now permanently settled.

EARLY JUSTICE. Uncle Billy Willis presided over the city court, and when Constable Frank Keys brought in a culprit Uncle Billy would always fine him \$5 and costs, regardless of the enormity of the offense. In case the fine could not be paid, the prisoner had a ball and chain fastened to his leg and he sweat out his fine at the handle of the town pump at a rate of \$1 per day. There was no thought of appeal, and the modern writ of habeas corpus was an expense not considered. Offenders paid or pumped, else Dad Keys wouldn't feed them.

The first jail was a wooden building located on the Illinois Central grounds on the north side of Second Street at Central. Once when James F. Keys was marshal a drunken tramp set fire to his cot in an effort to escape. The jail burned, but the tramp was rescued. Keys is the only marshal whose identity is known who served prior to 1875.

The second jail was of brick construction and was located along the west Y, just north of Main Street, now Route 24. It was always referred to as the calaboose and it stood for some years after the new city hall provided jail cells, then used as quarters for the transients. It was finally sold to R. L. Beshers for \$145, plus paving assessments, and was removed by him.

A recorder's court was established here in March, 1869 at a time when it appeared El Paso might become the county seat. It had all the powers of the courts at Metamora, with J. J. Cassell as the first and only judge. It operated only about two years and the old records were lost in a west side Front Street fire.

After the turn of the century a city collector was appointed to collect water, sidewalk and other assessments, and this continued until March 5, 1923 when the collectors duties were added to those of the city treasurer. The council forgot to add anything to the treasurer's salary for his increased duties, but did so when he refused to qualify without it.

Police officers were elected when the city was under special charter. W. T. Tucker was elected marshal in 1875, the earliest except for Mr. Keys that we can find record of. He was followed by Mr. O. R. Webster, and in 1880 E. S. Paul served until the election of Ozias Johns in 1889. H. J. Morris was elected in 1891, and was appointed when the city began operating under the general law that year. Morris resigned in January, 1892, to be followed by George W. Tegard, probably our first uniformed policeman, but he resigned in 1895. Ozias Johns then returned for four years, and in 1899 F. L. Newton was appointed. He was succeeded by L. F. Tobias in 1908. In 1911 the position was discontinued temporarily, with Theodore Faulk serving in



GEORGE W. TEGARD, BELIEVED TO BE EL PASO'S FIRST UNIFORMED
POLICE OFFICER, 1892.

1911 until Elmer Taylor received his appointment. Taylor served the longest period of all our marshals, from December 1911 until just before his death on January 17, 1948 when Louis Waters succeeded him. Clyde Tegard became day policeman September 1, 1951, the only former mayor to so serve. Both of these officers are uniformed.

Duties have changed through the years. When the city hall was located in the Eagle Block, the marshal was also janitor and kept the

fire engine clean and the brass polished. He also had to keep the street crossings free of mud, no small task, and after the boiler was installed at the waterworks, he had to fire the steam engine.

In December, 1949 the city council authorized a squad car for the police. The Ford tudor sedan is fully equipped, including a two-way radio connecting with both the telephone and sheriff's office.

CITY PARKS. Two parks were laid out when the city was platted and trees planted. The park donated by Wathen was named Jefferson Park, and the Gibson park named Franklin Park. Because cattle were frequently loose on the streets, the parks were inclosed with an iron fence in 1877. A bandstand was also erected that year in Jefferson Park, making it a focal point for community celebrations and summer concerts. The fences came down in 1904, but the bandstand remained for nearly thirty years longer when decay necessitated its removal.

In 1901 the Illinois Central lawn between Front and First Streets was leveled, enclosed with a low iron fence and some flowers planted.



THE I. C. LAWN HAD A LOW FENCE ABOUT 1910.

The grass was then kept cut with lawn mowers and the improvement begun by the railroad is today continued by individuals and the city until we have a nice "park" extending on the railroad grounds from Front to Third Streets. The fence has long ago been removed.

Diagonal walks were laid in Jefferson and Franklin Parks by donated labor in 1912, with about \$1,200 being raised by contributions, each square being marked with a donor's name. Dr. Gordon donated both ornamental lights in the parks June 2, 1913, giving his salary as alderman for that purpose. Both parks were badly in need of fill, and on June 1, 1914, 160 men, farmers as well as businessmen, joined forces in an organized effort to improve both the fair ground and the parks in one operation. The high infield banks along the race track were cut down so rainfall would drain off rapidly, and the dirt was hauled on the

farmers' wagons to the two parks where it was spread to bring the lawn up to present grade. A total of 227 loads of dirt were hauled to Jefferson Park and 536 to Franklin Park that day. A roast beef dinner was prepared and served the workmen by a group of women, with all the edibles donated.

Drinking fountains, picnic tables and playground equipment have been installed in the parks and flower beds encircle the walk intersections.

On October 4, 1920 the city council purchased the old pit from which the Fursman & Straight tile factory had secured their clay, paying Mr. James A. Smith \$625 for it. For some years the northwest section was used as a tourist park for motorists. The city continued filling in the old pit with refuse until it was full, and in 1951 the area was leveled and seeded and the Corn Belt Park was added to the city's recreation spots. The Kiwanis Club, with the two Robert Maynes heading the committee, provided and set out evergreen trees along the boundaries of the new park. Like the others, the grass is kept mowed with power lawnmowers.

The Kiwanis Club also sponsored the erection of the war memorial on the Illinois Central lawn facing the post office in 1947. Dr. C. E. Cryer was chairman of the committee in charge, and they built the memorial, measuring twenty-five feet in length by over seven feet in height, of vari-colored stones. It holds a large bronze plaque bearing the names of all the men and women serving in World War I and II who were residents of our community within a year prior to the out-



EL PASO'S WAR MEMORIAL, SPONSORED BY THE KIWANIS CLUB

break of the wars. It bears the names of nine dead in the first war and twenty-seven in the second. The entire cost was \$3,500, the work being done by Mr. Blaine Tarman of Gridley. All veterans of the community were invited to the dedication by Senator C. Wayland Brooks during a Corn Festival program on September 12, 1947.

FIRES. Between 1873 and 1894 seven major fires wiped out great portions of the business district and in some cases spread into the residential area. The first major fire destroyed the Bigham & McOmber buggy and carriage factory, their livery stable and several horses in 1873. The first Seery & Rouse grain elevator also burned that year, and Grafft's planing mill and Webster's elevator burned September 19, 1875.

The third big fire in less than two years emphasized the need for better fire protection. On October 14, 1875 a group of citizens petitioned the city council for recognition as a fire company. Their petition was granted and they were ordered to form an organization of not more than thirty-five men. Members of the fire department were exempt from jury duty and the payment of the annual poll tax at that time.

An order for \$1,000 had previously been issued for the purchase of a fire engine, and at this meeting the mayor was instructed to "draw an order for \$800, less expenses of the committee to Mendota (where the engine was purchased) for payment of the balance due on the same." It was a "big, double cylinder chemical affair, painted bright red, with brass trim." On March 2, 1876 the fire company sponsored a dance to raise money for minor equipment and this was the first of many fund-raising projects sponsored by the firemen when money was unavailable to meet all the department's needs.

In mid-October, 1876, a fire set by sparks from an Illinois Central train swept over 100 acres of the Adam Henning farm south of El Paso and threatened the roundhouse at the south end of the switch yards. Twenty men carried the hose in their hands ahead of the city's Champion fire engine, playing water on the flames, which stopped within feet of the roundhouse. A fire, believed of incendiary origin, did destroy the roundhouse some years later, but it had been unused after the Illinois Central built other lines and diverted much of the original traffic through El Paso.

In July, 1877 a hook and ladder truck was added to our fire fighting equipment, and the next month the city leased ground from the Illinois Central as the site for a fire house. It was located at the northeast corner of First and Central Streets. A wooden tower was erected and a fire alarm bell installed which had been cast in Sheffield, England in 1868 and weighed 610 pounds. This first tower was near the Clifton Hotel, but after the 1894 fire a second tower was built at the fire house, where the bell remained until it was moved to the new steel tower adjoining the city hall in 1907. This tower had rusted by January, 1950, so the heavy bell was taken down as a siren had replaced it in fire alarms some years before. Roger Benson converted the tower



THE FIRE COMPANY AND FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT OF 1892.

to a television aerial and moved it to Route 24. The old bell is now stored at the city water plant, and proposals have been made to set it up in one of its original locations as a memento of the early days.

The old fire engine was in service for many years and was pulled by men or horses and sometimes both when needed. For some years Con Duff, the father of General Robinson E. Duff, mentioned in the Name and Fame chapter, operated a dray line and lived a block west of the fire house. His team was nearly always used to pull the engine to the fires, and the horses were so trained that Con would turn the team loose when the fire bell rang, and by the time the firemen arrived the horses were standing in their places waiting to be hitched to the engine.

The south half of Block 43 was destroyed by fire October 10, 1882. It began in the old El Paso House, a hotel where the theatre now stands. Gibson said he first built this building for a store and later changed it to a hotel, apparently as a concession to the Jenkins Bros. who opened their general store across the street that year. In addition to the hotel, then operated by Foreman Bros., sixteen other businesses were wiped out. These included: Geiger and Ingels, implements; S. D. Patton, sewing machines, pianos and organs; O. A. Cavan, Hall's safes; D. C. York, barber shop; Charles McCoy, drugs and books; Thomas Doyle, groceries; John Geiger, saloon; Saltzberger & Seidel, groceries; Carl Schuitman, restaurant, and the offices of P. C. Ransom, James Harper, Dr. J. Q. Adams and W. G. Randall, a lawyer.

This again emphasized the hazard of having wooden buildings heated with stoves standing wall to wall in the business area, as well as the inability of our fire fighting equipment to cope with a major fire. At the next city council meeting, an ordinance was passed forbidding the construction of business houses in Blocks 41, 42 and 43 unless built with brick walls and fire-resistant roofs.

On May 8, 1889 the coal sheds belonging to the Illinois Central, located just east of their tracks south of Route 24 where the El Paso Elevator Co. plant and office is today, caught fire. The flames were fed by 1,500 tons of coal and fanned by a high south wind which carried rolling coal smoke and sparks far to the north. The home of the railroad agent west of the tracks caught fire and burned quickly. It was El Paso's first depot, the scene of Lincoln, Cobden and McClellan's visits. The freight houses and offices 200 feet north burned, and the Campbell House diagonally across the tracks caught fire and was damaged, but escaped destruction. The fire jumped Front Street and burned the Summit House, built by James H. Wathen where Janssen's grocery is now located. Then H. Saltzberger's grocery and S. D. Patton's barn, across the alley, burned. Flaming shingles carried in the high wind set fire to the residence of Christian Geiger, several blocks north at the corner of Cherry and Fourth Streets, and by the time it was discovered it had such headway the residence was destroyed.

In less than a year after this disaster, another bad fire on April 30, 1890, destroyed three of the town's "firsts". The original elevator of George W. Fridley, owned in 1890 by David Evans, caught fire and burned. It set fire to the Thomas McClellan and David Hibbs homes across the street, first two in El Paso, the McClellan house at 195 West Front then being owned by Mrs. Caroline Bayne, whose husband purchased it very shortly after it was completed. That day's fire loss was estimated at nearly \$10,000.

Another major fire struck the west end of Block 41 on August 15, 1893, eleven business buildings being destroyed, with others damaged. This was the first time our firemen were able to halt a major fire; they checked it and saved the east end of this business block. Places destroyed included: J. A. Tarman and James Hendron, two buildings each; M. E. Cazelet, two buildings and his grocery stock; Peter Thometz, bakery, the Newton Estate building; C. M. Parmalee, meat market; James Cannon, harness and saddlery; Alvin Hodgson, flour and feed; Willis Klug, furniture; H. Kreidler, building and buggy shop; F. L. Kyser's barn; C. M. Westcott, building damaged and Louis Kurtz, damaged grocery stock.

Before the city water system was extended many business houses had large cisterns or tanks filled with water to provide fire protection. While helpful, they were inadequate, and the stagnant water together with pigs raised in pens along the rear of the stores, made a trip down the alley more of an odorous jaunt than it is today although there is still room for much improvement. P. L. Haas recalls that he frequently was assigned to pump water from the tank to cool the pigs on hot summer days.

The fire which broke out in the basement of the Tegtmeyer store July 19, 1894 caused a loss of \$250,000 and for a time threatened the entire town. Every building in Block 42 burned to the ground with the



THE 1914 FIRE COMPANY MEMBERS.

single exception of the Chris Schafer residence, now occupied by his granddaughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Coss. Firemen came from surrounding towns to help, but our water supply and fire fighting equipment were totally inadequate and the fire was not brought under control for more than three hours. Businesses destroyed included the First National Bank; S. H. North, implements; H. G. McCord, groceries; J. H. Strathman, furniture; the El Paso Journal Co., the City Hall and Council rooms; the Ladies' Library; the Masonic Temple; D. A. Strother's barber shop; J. I. Kerr's office; J. W. Parkinson's veterinary office; W. O. Cotton's restaurant; W. H. Hoagland, storeroom; F. L. Kyser, jewelry store; J. K. Kyser, building; D. Dunn, drug store and building; W. H. Dorsey, restaurant and household goods; W. H. Fitzgerald and John Kearney, saloons, fixtures, stock and buildings; F. A. Young, harness stock; Newton Sheen, building, hardware stock and household goods; I. K. Tegtmeier, general merchandise stock and household goods; W. N. Snype, boots and shoes; Christian G. Schafer, two brick buildings, two frame buildings and damage to residence; A. H. Waite, hardware stock; George Burster, building and clothing stock; S. H. Worthington, dry goods stock; Mrs. Haerer, building; Somers & Co., building and meat market; Dr. McCann, two frame buildings; Albert Smith, notion stock; Peter Thometz, bakery and grocery; residences of Mrs. Neifing and Martin Loesch; W. H. Ferguson's Clifton Hotel and livery barn; George Thorpe, brick building; Dr. J. A. Schofield, dental office, and the Thorpe Bros. real estate office. This was the worst fire in El Paso's history.

A special election was held October 28, 1925, which in addition to improving pumping facilities and providing a second emergency pumping well, authorized the purchase of a "fire fighting machine to pump directly into the mains if necessary." A triple combination pumper and double tank chemical engine mounted on a Graham Bros. chassis was purchased from the Boyer Fire Apparatus Co. of Logansport, Indiana for \$4,950 including taxes. Another election June 18, 1940, authorized a bond issue of \$5,500 to purchase additional fire fighting equipment. A new engine was purchased from the Howe Fire Apparatus Co. of Anderson, Indiana for \$4,315. It was on an International chassis with 179 inch wheelbase, with a 500 gallon per minute rotary pump. It has a 200 gallon booster tank and aluminum ladders.

The fire company purchased a resuscitator for \$400 in 1943 with funds received from personal donations. It was the first department in the county to own such equipment. In order to provide better fire protection for the rural areas, an additional piece of special equipment was added in 1949. This is a 1,000 gallon tank, kept filled with water, and was made by combining a former school bus chassis and tank with proper mounting. Members of the fire company did this work in a local shop. The fire department answers all nearby country fire calls, being paid by insurance or by the farmer personally. The city fire insurance rates have been steadily lowered over the recent years due to the efficiency of the El Paso Volunteer Fire Company, and there has been no complete loss of any residence or business house inside the city limits in the last decade.

Possibly the man with the longest record with the fire department is A. H. Wolk, now retired, who served from 1893 to October 9, 1939, over



THE LAST OF THE HORSE-DRAWN FIRE WAGONS. IN 1913 R. W. ROBINSON WAS CHIEF AND CHARLES M. BAKER, DRIVER.

forty-six years. Close competitors for long service include C. F. Zinkan and the late R. W. Robinson.

Present members of the fire department include Kenneth E. Lebo, chief; Frank Benedict, assistant chief and J. Williston McHugh, Secretary. At present there are 18 members.

ENTERTAINMENT. Prior to 1882 the Strathman Hall was the center of amusement in the community. Dances were held there, stock companies and vaudeville teams performed, including Tom Thumb and his troupe of midgets, and stereopticon peep shows were all held in the third floor theatre.

An artificial ice pond was created by I. Lemon and his sons in the southeast part of town and enclosed with a high board fence. For some years it was a popular skating rink, and professional skaters came here from Chicago and other places to compete in prize contests offered by the management. Professor Currier's brass band, of which Dick Lemon was a member, provided music for these night sessions. A large building was erected at the pond as an adjunct to the rink.

In 1894 the El Paso Opera House Company was formed with fifty stockholders, and planned the present theatre building at Front and Cherry on ground which they purchased from J. M. Worley. As the Masonic bodies had recently lost their rooms in the fire, the two groups combined forces and a two story building was erected, the second floor being the Masonic Temple. The building committee included W. W. Stafford, William R. Fleming and Edwin E. Somers for the company, and William R. Fleming, Louis M. Kerr and George R. Curtiss for the Masons.

In addition to the stock companies and vaudeville teams which were billed at the new theatre we find mention of "moving pictures and illustrated songs" being presented by a "company which carries special equipment which will throw reproductions on 225 square feet of canvas; the subjects are varied, both comic and instructive."

The theatre was finally purchased by A. E. Fleming and operated by various managers, Dr. A. C. King serving the longest period. J. E. Schlink and his son Harold purchased the business May 30, 1931 and continued it until December 1, 1951. They sold it to Elza Myers, who in turn sold to the Rist Brothers who operate it today.

We find the motion pictures came to the El Paso Theatre as regular entertainment in June of 1912, *The Journal* noting that "El Paso is finally on the map as a moving picture town; manager Ed Shaw has equipped the house with modern apparatus and plans two shows every night except Sunday."

Stock companies left the local theatre about 1910 and for the next twenty years or so, one or two groups would set up a tent theatre in town and play for five or six nights, changing the bill each night. The Callahan Company was the most popular of these. Perhaps the final stock show in the Opera House was around 1925 when Dr. Sidney P.

Kingdon brought his Kingdon Players off the road in the west long enough to play just one night in his old home town, losing money on the venture. One of his actors that night was Milburn Stone who has gone on to Hollywood where he has been in pictures for over twenty years.

After the center block was rebuilt following the fire of July 19, 1894, the City Opera House, not to be confused with the Grand Opera House, was located on the second floor of the Hoagland Building. Marshall Tegard was the first manager and he presented his first comedy there on December 22, 1894. The place later has been known as Michel's Hall and is used for carnivals, club meetings, dances and offices.

Play days have been held at various times, with varying programs, but the basic idea was to promote El Paso through fellowship and fun. The program of the third annual affair held August 18, 1900, included music by Spencer's Band of Peoria, a contest by the fire department, a riding exhibition, a ten-mile bicycle race, foot races, a ball game, a greased pig and horseshoe pitching contests.

The June 11, 1913 Play Day brought a crowd to El Paso which many thought the largest we ever had. A 100-mile automobile road race was the principal attraction, and the fact that one of the drivers was killed emphasized the danger of racing on the public highways.



THE PLAY DAY PARADE, JUNE 11, 1913.

The track was a six mile course around two sections, one mile south and two west of El Paso, returning to the present hard road intersection. No road was paved then, and the dust proved a great hazard.

Returned servicemen were guests of the community at a Victory Day celebration on June 18, 1919, for which the Boy Scout band provided the music. A free dinner for all the discharged soldiers and sailors, a ball game, fireworks and a pavement dance provided the fun.

In 1947 the new Chamber of Commerce sponsored a Corn Festival and coordinated the dates with the FFA livestock show also held in El Paso. It was a three-day celebration, combining some of the features of both the Play Days and the El Paso Fair. It was held September 11, 12 and 13 and was continued annually until after the festival in 1950 when it was decided to hold it on alternate years. In keeping with the centennial, a full week is planned for August 22-28, 1954, which will include a three-night pageant based on the community's history. The slogan, Capital City of the Corn Belt, was adopted in connection with the first Corn Festival.

El Paso has always been enthusiastic about ball games of all sorts and supports football and basketball teams consistently. During the depression of the 1930's the community went wildly mad over softball, a night variation of baseball, then staged at the Rutledge farm northeast of town. League play was held for several seasons with eight teams competing, and in 1933 an all-star team was selected to compete in the *Daily Pantagraph's* 1933 Central Illinois softball tournament. The El Paso team won all its elimination games by a one-run margin, beating out sixteen good teams for the championship. The game also had a revival following World War II on the high school grounds.

Perhaps the most famous of all El Paso High School teams was the 1905 baseball team coached by Principal Pricer. For two years this team defeated all opponents except one; a big Peoria high school defeated them by a narrow margin, but it was later learned the high school borrowed two or three college players who were believed good enough to hit Merritt Armstrong's excellent pitching. Had there been regular league play and rigid eligibility rules in 1905, that team would have probably won the Illinois high school championship.

Football was introduced at El Paso High School in 1915 by Paul M. Mulliken, with Edgar Vanneman the coach in 1916. Old teams in the days of Lyman Sturm and John Pleasants sustained bad injuries due to lack of coaching and lack of equipment, so the game had been forbidden for many years. The first 1915 team with Hurd Adams, Bob Barracks, Virgil Gordon and Dewey Webber taking the backfield duties was moderately successful, but the 1916 team surprised everyone by trouncing Peoria Manual 19 to 0, Normal High 37 to 30, and Fairbury 28 to 7. El Paso Township High's basketball teams were hard to beat



EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL'S GREAT BASEBALL TEAM OF 1905. TOP ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: LEO RENDER, CLYDE TEGARD, PRINCIPAL PRICER, LEO CLEARY; CENTER ROW: BART OSTER, CHESTER HORNER, MERRITT ARMSTRONG, PERCY ANDREWS, CHARLES TOUSSIENG; LOWER ROW: ROY TOBIAS, RICHARD SPRING-GATE AND EDWARD FITZGERALD.

in the days of Clyde McQueen, Lynn Gibbs and Sam Blackwell as coaches, twice getting into the sectional meets that determine who gets to play with the "sweet sixteen" at the Champaign state meet.

Athletic training begins in the grade school, and El Paso's heavy-weight grade school teams of 1953 and 1954 under the coaching of Dean Poling have both qualified for the state grade school meet by winning the sectional championship. In 1953 our boys lost their first game in the state meet, but this year the 1954 team has won 17 out of 18 games, and hope for better luck in the state championship "sweet sixteen" meet at Lincoln. The following boys make up this team, the best grade school team El Paso has ever had: Cryer, Mool, McHugh, Garrels, Rinkenberger, Tipler, Kendall, Vogel, West and Blackmore.

El Paso possesses a wealth of talent capable of entertainment from hillbilly plays and western music to Handel's "Messiah." El Paso musicians have been members of the finest Peoria and Bloomington musical organizations, Dorothy Curtiss and Max Smith currently playing with the Bloomington-Normal Symphony.

In 1947 the Corncapades made its first appearance. Produced with the avowed purpose of providing funds for the biennial Corn Festival,

the show is locally written, costumed and produced, and provides one of the finest entertainments of the year. The term Corncapades was coined by Mildred G. Burster, a moving spirit in this project since the beginning and whose pen has produced nearly all its lines through the years. She has varied the title from "Kernels of Korn" and "Gone with the Big Blow" to the "Gay Nineties Review" and "Home on the Range." With Curt Mahaffey and Wayne West providing the musical push, this year the production bears the centennial title "The Campbell House Blues," a sure hit.

Corn husking contests may not be entertainment for the contestants but they were for the spectators until the machine eliminated this physical labor. It was many a young man's ambition to be the best corn husker in the area, the state or the nation, and these later contests became an annual sporting event in the 1920's and 1930's, with regular rules and judges. The first corn husking contest of which we can find a record was one held in the fall of 1900 when Percy Kingdon defeated Charles Sharpe in a torrid eight-hour Panola Township contest, 154 bushels to 152. An official Woodford County contest lasting



THE 1935 STATE CORN HUSKING CONTEST, HELD
ON THE SHUMAN FARM NEAR EL PASO.

an hour and twenty minutes was held each year after 1929, Simon Oltman of El Paso winning four of the first six matches. He then won the Illinois State contest at Earlville in 1934, and competed in the 1935 contest on the George Shuman farm southwest of El Paso, and in a national contest in Minnesota. Since 1940 mechanical pickers and lately mechanical contests have replaced the hand experts.

STORMS. Though wind, rain, sleet, hail, and snow storms have struck

crippling blows at various times during the century, causing much property damage, we have been spared the losses experienced in some communities. Isolation prior to 1900 was not too serious as cellars held supplies of potatoes, cabbage, apples and sauerkraut, and meat from the smokehouse made living reasonably secure. Let the electric light line break today with a load of sleet in the wind, and things come to a quick standstill.

The first great local storm was the cyclone of May 13, 1858 which killed James Kirklin and did much damage. Snowdrifts covered fences in 1898, and then a two-inch thick sleet was frozen so hard on top of the snow that sleds sometimes disregarded the fences. The worst storm to hit El Paso in recent years was the big wind and hail storm on the evening of May 15, 1915. This storm wrecked the fair amphitheatre, damaged many buildings, and filled the streets with broken trees. Hail stones as big as walnuts were so thick on the ground after this storm, that walking was difficult and riding a bicycle impossible.

A sleet storm on December 17, 1924 made the country look like a jeweled fairyland, but it cut off El Paso electricity for fourteen days for a new record, and it took repairmen two weeks to repair telephone, telegraph and electrical lines. Again in January, 1948 a severe sleet storm struck, and on January 28 thirty farmers joined city men in cleaning up the littered streets in sub-zero cold, building bonfires to keep warm. This storm cost the El Paso Telephone Company dearly and took out miles of their lines.

One of the greatest snowstorms in recent winters occurred January 12-13, 1918 when the snow was some two feet deep on the level, with



WEST FRONT STREET, JANUARY 13, 1918 AFTER THE GREAT SNOWSTORM.

drifts blocking all rail and highway transportation for two or three days. One of the latest big snow storms occurred Easter Sunday morning, falling during the night of April 3-4, 1920. It was deep enough to stop a passenger train east of El Paso where a cut drifted shut; the passengers came to town in sleds, including Tex Rickard, famous fight promoter. Neither of these great snows remained long on the ground, but they provided fuel problems for those with a short coal supply. January and February of 1936 proved the most critical for continued cold weather and low fuel supplies. At times there was less than twenty-five tons of coal in all the El Paso yards, the fuel being rationed in half-ton lots. It remained extremely cold for six weeks, and the frost went as much as forty inches deep, with frozen water pipes a daily handicap.

Near cloud bursts or prolonged rains have often flooded basements, washed out bridges and disrupted train and road transportation. Such a flood followed the May, 1858 cyclone by two weeks; another occurred in 1902 and again in 1915. The new hard road between Secor and El Paso had been opened only a short time when the eight-inch rain came the night of August 18-19, 1924, washing out the new fill west of the Panther Creek bridge. Peter Donner had lived in the Panther Creek



THE PANTHER CREEK BRIDGE EAST OF SECOR ON ROUTE 24
WITHSTANDS THE FLOOD OF AUGUST 19, 1924.

water shed all his life and he had warned the hard road engineers that the bridge opening there was too small, and his prediction quickly proved to be correct. This was corrected three years ago. The summers of 1927, 1943 and 1951 saw torrential rains wash away our valued top soil, the one of July 8, 1951 raising the water level at the Andrew Haas bridge over Panther Creek to a new all-time record.

IMPORTANT TRIALS. It is not possible to build a community and

continue it for a century without death taking its toll through accident, suicide or even murder, as well as through disease and old age. Unfortunately, El Paso has had its share of cases involving unnatural death.

The first case in the local area involved a manslaughter charge against George W. Kingston, Jr., son of one of the very earliest of Woodford County pioneers. On May 9, 1868 his neighbor, David J. Hedges was building a fence across a public highway, where others living nearby had previously torn it down. This time Hedges had brought along a revolver to back up his apparently illegal fence job. Nevertheless, Kingston remonstrated with him, and when the argument waxed hot, Kingston took away Hedge's revolver and started home with it across his own field, somewhere on the southeast eighty acres of Section 9 in Panola Township. Hedges caught up with him and started the argument all over again, coming at Kingston with a hatchet he had been using in the fence building. Kingston struck Hedges with a spade he carried and the latter soon died. Strangely, the Hedges widow also met a similar violent death in 1873 in Eureka, presumably at the hands of another woman.

After many delays, Kingston's trial occurred August 13, 1869, and he was acquitted on the grounds of self-defense. That Kingston considered his predicament to be serious is shown in the fact that he retained at great expense the law firm of Robert G. Ingersoll, Joseph J. Cassell, John Burns and John T. Harper to defend him. The case as above outlined is in the records in Ingersoll's own handwriting. The high costs of the case and the resulting publicity caused young Kingston's removal from Panola. Like his pioneer father, who was alive and apparently the only witness to the fight, young Kingston had an excellent reputation.

On May 2, 1881, P. C. Ransom, a former mayor of El Paso, shot and killed Walter Bullock, an El Paso attorney, as the result of a political quarrel of long standing. The shooting occurred in front of the present El Paso Produce Company, 133 West Front Street. Feeling against Ransom ran high; he took a change of venue from Woodford County and was tried in Lacon. In January, 1882 he was finally acquitted on a plea of self-defense; according to newspaper accounts of the time, the acquittal was practically ordered by the presiding judge.

One of the most famous El Paso trials was of a lighter vein. On Halloween in 1915 some boys made off with Adam Foltz's nicely painted barber pole and hid it. Adam was furious and refused to see any humor in such prank, and took the case into Squire Al Kuhn's justice court. With spectators jamming the court rooms, boy after boy was examined and of course, none knew a thing about the disappearance of the most famous barber pole El Paso ever had. But the matter assumed such dangerous proportions, that some forty years later there were men in El Paso who for the first time were willing to talk about

the disappearance of Adam Foltz's barber pole. One of these gentlemen is the head of an El Paso Ford agency, slightly related to the complainant, and another has a very high position in the centennial organization. Both of these boys had been so far above suspicion in the case they were not called as witnesses. But after the "trial" the barber pole was removed from its hiding place in the weeds along the Illinois Central tracks and tossed into an empty coal car passing south, lest it be found as the needed evidence. The case still throws such fear into certain men of El Paso that no one can be found who will admit tossing that pole into the coal car, but they do state positively that that was the end of the Adam Foltz barber pole, if not the law case.

Illinois banks had a Bankers' Protective Association with certain citizens deputized to help capture bank bandits. Dr. A. C. King was one of the El Paso bank guard force when a call came from Secor the afternoon of January 3, 1927, saying a bandit had held up the First National Bank there and was headed east. The dentist left a patient in his chair, grabbed his sawed-off shotgun and drove to the four corners. A speeding car soon appeared from the west and Dr. King brandished his gun in the middle of the road, then stepped behind a pillar of the corner service station. Another car containing Albert Jacobs and Ralph Burster, cashier who had just faced the bandit's gun, was following the speeding car and about to overtake it. A shot was heard and the bandit car turned over in the ditch before it reached the crossing. Closing in, King, Burster and Jacobs found the man dead in the car, killed by a shot from his own pistol. The money was returned to Secor, and King looked at his gun to find it was locked and wouldn't have fired. The bandit proved to be from a good family in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. They did not claim the body and he was buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

Edward Perry Bennett, fifteen, one of the finest football backs El Paso High School ever had, died January 28, 1947 in an altercation between two groups of boys near the intersection of Routes 24 and 51. Dewey Cook, seventeen, of Farina, Illinois, finally pled guilty to manslaughter by stabbing and was sentenced to fourteen years in the penitentiary. Edward and Frederick Hollingsworth were charged with manslaughter, but were acquitted.

John Seggerman died November 3, 1949 from gunshot wounds which his wife said she inflicted following a quarrel. She was charged with murder, but was acquitted on her plea of self-defense.

CITY OFFICIALS. Clyde L. Tegard is the only one of El Paso's mayors who was born in El Paso. Horace H. Baker was the youngest man ever elected to the office, having just turned twenty-six. Fred Eastman is believed the youngest alderman to be elected. Joseph G. Baker and Horace H. Baker are the only father and son to both hold the office of mayor. John B. Michels served the longest period as

mayor, a total of eight years. The first city attorney of which we find record is Walter S. Gibson, elected in 1881. C. G. Schroeder was the last elected in 1919, and J. F. Bosworth the first appointed city attorney in 1921. J. D. Park was president of the board of trustees of the village, prior to its first special charter in February, 1867. Emma Glessing was the first elected woman official.

POPULATION CHART

	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950
El Paso,	890	1564	1390	1353	1441	1470	1638	1578	1621	1818
Kappa,	**	**	**	**	175	142	149	123	141	125
Panola,	524	**	127	132	148	108	98	82	51	52

The population of Secor for the above years is not readily available, but the township, or rural areas had about the same population after the rapid settlements of the 1850's that they do now. In 1860 the population of Palestine Township was 1354, Panola Township, 534 and Greene Township 770; the first included Secor. In 1950 Panola Township was listed at 567 and Greene at 552. El Paso Township had a total of 2307 people in the 1950 census.

TABLE OF EL PASO OFFICIALS:

YEAR:	MAYOR:	CLERK:	TREASURER:	ALDERMEN:
1867	J. H. Moore	J. T. Harper	***	M. T. Polhemus, D. B. Webster, William Neifing, W. T. Adams, George W. Fridley.
1868	G. L. Gibson	***	***	G. H. Campbell, A. O. Shur, William Neifing, G. W. Hubbard.
1869	J. H. Wathen	***	***	William Neifing, D. B. Webster, W. T. Adams, Delos O'Brien.
1870	J. H. Wathen	***	***	William Shur, W. T. Adams, James Keough, Philip Tompkins.
1871	D. C. Smith	***	***	William Shur, G. W. Zinser, James Keough, Philip Tompkins.
1872	W. R. Bigham	***	***	Philip Tompkins, Thomas Brenn, W. K. Hoagland, J. Q. Adams.
1873	W. R. Bigham	***	***	J. Q. Adams, C. P. Shur, Delos O'Brien, William Neifing.
1874	W. R. Bigham,	***	***	C. P. Shur, Delos O'Brien, William Neifing, A. S. McKinney.
1875	Cyrus P. Shur	***	***	Delos O'Brien, S. V. Calhoun, A. S. McKinney, D. B. Webster.
1876	Cyrus P. Shur	***	***	J. P. Ferrell, G. M. Young, D. B. Webster, S. V. Calhoun.
1877	P. C. Ransom	***	***	Robert Robinson, J. R. Sweet, J. P. Ferrell, G. M. Young.
1878	P. C. Ransom	***	***	Robert Robinson, J. R. Sweet, D. W. Lamme, G. H. Campbell.

1879	S. T. Rogers	***	***	D. W. Lamme, G. H. Campbell, William Jenkins, C. G. Schafer.
1880	G. W. Lamme	***	***	William Jenkins, C. G. Schafer, S. L. Kerr, William McClellan.
1881	William Jenkins	P. A. Simmons	J. Thompson	S. L. Kerr, William McClellan, S. K. Hayward, Frederick Cole.
1882	G. H. Campbell	P. A. Simmons	J. Thompson	Frederick Cole, David Evans, S. K. Hayward, C. J. Hitch.
1883	Robert Robinson	P. A. Simmons	J. Thompson	David Evans, O. J. Lemon, C. J. Hitch, Jacob Burtis.
1884	Walter S. Gibson	Azro Hazen	J. Thompson	David Evans, O. J. Lemon, J. H. Burtis, H. G. McCord.
1885	Robert Robinson	J. Williams	J. Thompson	David Evans, H. Saltsberger, J. H. Burtis, H. G. McCord.
1886	S. L. Kerr	J. Williams	J. Thompson	James Baughman, S. K. Hayward, J. H. Burtis, H. Saltsberger.
1887	Robert Robinson	1-Azro Hazen (died) 2-G. R. Curtiss	J. Thompson	James Baughman, John Moore, S. K. Hayward, George Thorpe, Sr.
1888	James Baughman	S. K. Hayward	J. Thompson	John Moore, George Thorpe, Sr., Thomas Doyle, F. S. McLafferty.
1889	Lee S. Straight	S. K. Hayward	J. Thompson	J. K. Kyser, Thomas Doyle, F. S. McLafferty, John Moore.
1890	L. A. Geiger	S. K. Hayward	J. Thompson	James M. Fishburn, J. K. Kyser, R. G. Hebden, John Moore.
1891	L. A. Geiger	S. K. Hayward	J. Thompson	James M. Fishburn, L. M. Kerr, R. G. Hebden, Richard Webber.
1891	(City reorganized under the general law.) Walter S. Gibson (resigned)			Edwin Hodgson, L. M. Kerr, J. A. Smith, R. G. Hebden, Ozias Johns, Adam Brown.
	S. M. Ferrell	S. K. Hayward	J. Thompson	
1892	S. M. Ferrell	S. K. Hayward	J. Thompson	L. M. Kerr, William B. Renard, J. A. Smith, J. B. Michels, George Burster (resigned), Ozias Johns, Adam Brown.
1893	S. M. Ferrell	F. G. Robinson	A. H. Waite	William B. Renard, S. H. North, George Burster, J. A. Smith, Ozias Johns, Adam Brown.

YEAR:	MAYOR:	CLERK:	TREASURER:	ALDERMEN:
1894	S. M. Ferrell	F. G. Robinson	A. H. Waite	William B. Renard, S. H. North, Frank Clutz, J. A. Smith (resigned), Adam Brown, J. G. Baker, J. M. Stephens.
1895	Thomas Patterson	F. G. Robinson	L. K. Evans	William B. Renard, Omer North, Frank Clutz, J. G. Baker, Adam Brown, J. M. Stephens.
1896	Thomas Patterson	F. G. Robinson	L. K. Evans	Omer North, J. M. Stephens, William B. Renard, Frank Clutz, J. G. Baker, A. Mathias.
1897	J. G. Baker	Fred Smith	R. N. West	William B. Renard, F. J. Clutz, A. Mathias, W. W. Stafford, H. J. Tegtmeyer, Robert B. Pleasants.
1898	J. G. Baker	Fred Smith	R. N. West	W. W. Stafford, Robert B. Pleasants, Elmer Shreve, James E. Ryan, Charles H. Bingner.
1899	J. I. Kerr	Fred Smith	D. L. McWilliams	Elmer Shreve, James E. Ryan, Charles H. Bingner, James Pleasants, C. M. Parmalee, F. J. Valentine.
1900	J. I. Kerr	Fred Smith	D. L. McWilliams	James Pleasants, Elmer Shreve, C. M. Parmalee, F. J. Valentine, J. R. Welch, R. W. Gough.
1901	J. I. Kerr	Fred Smith	F. S. Larison	Elmer Shreve, J. R. Welch, R. W. Gough, J. W. Pleasants, C. M. Parmalee, F. J. Valentine.
1902	J. I. Kerr	Fred Smith	F. S. Larison	J. W. Pleasants, Elmer Shreve, C. W. Parmalee, F. J. Valentine, J. S. Welch, J. W. Render.
1903	J. I. Kerr (resigned) S. M. Ferrell	Fred Smith	J. F. Shepard	Elmer Shreve, J. S. Welch, W. J. Render, M. A. Adams, Frank Hankey, Robert Nethercott.
1904	S. M. Ferrell	F. B. Schafer	J. F. Shepard	M. A. Adams, Frank Hankey, Robert Nethercott, Elmer Shreve, F. L. Kyser, William J. Render.
1905	Peter Donner,	H. J. Tegtmeyer	F. S. Larison	Elmer Shreve, F. L. Kyser, W. J. Render, Omer North, Frank Hankey, S. W. Neville.
1906	Peter Donner	H. J. Tegtmeyer	F. S. Larison	Omer North, Frank Hankey, S. W. Neville, Elmer Shreve, J. S. Welch, W. J. Render.

1907	Peter Donner	H. J. Tegtmeier	C. M. Parmalee	Elmer Shreve, J. S. Welch, W. J. Render, Omer North, William Kridner, S. W. Neville.
1908	Peter Donner	H. J. Tegtmeier	C. M. Parmalee	Omer North, William Kridner, S. W. Neville, Edwin Hodgson, George Stambach, W. J. Render.
1909	Peter Donner	John W. Becker	Peter Thometz	Elmer Shreve, George Stambach, W. J. Render, Omer North, J. S. Welch, William Tegard.
1910	Peter Donner	John W. Becker	Peter Thometz	Omer North, J. S. Welch, W. J. Render, (moved away), Dr. R. E. Gordon, G. E. Stambach, William Tegard.
1911	Horace H. Baker	John W. Becker	J. F. Sturgeon	Dr. R. E. Gordon, J. J. Berry, G. E. Stambach, William Tegard, John Render, J. A. Smith, Jr.
1912	Horace H. Baker	John W. Becker	J. F. Sturgeon	John Render, J. A. Smith, Jr., William Tegard (resigned), Dr. R. E. Gordon, J. J. Berry, George Stambach.
1913	Horace H. Baker	John W. Becker	William Tegard	Dr. R. E. Gordon, J. J. Berry, George Stambach (resigned), John Render, J. A. Smith, Jr., Clyde Real.
1914	Horace H. Baker	John W. Becker	William Tegard	John Render, J. A. Smith, Jr., J. W. Reid, Dr. R. E. Gordon, J. S. Welch, W. A. Colburn.
1915	Horace H. Baker	John W. Becker	George Toussieng	Dr. R. E. Gordon, J. S. Welch, William Colburn, John Render, J. A. Smith, Jr., J. W. Reid.
1916	Horace H. Baker	John W. Becker	George Toussieng	John Render, J. A. Smith, J. W. Reid, Dr. R. E. Gordon, J. S. Welch (resigned), William Colburn.
1917	H. J. Tegtmeier	Max Smith	S. H. Worthington	Dr. R. E. Gordon, Leo Render, William Colburn, T. V. Pinkham, S. A. Kuhn, Charles Eve.
1918	H. J. Tegtmeier	Max Smith	S. H. Worthington	T. V. Pinkham, S. A. Kuhn, Charles Eve, Dr. R. E. Gordon, Leo Render, William Colburn.
1919	H. J. Tegtmeier	H. F. Saltsman	C. C. Kingdon	Dr. R. E. Gordon, Leo Render, William Colburn, T. V. Pinkham, J. J. McGuire, P. W. Haas.
1920	H. J. Tegtmeier	H. F. Saltsman	C. C. Kingdon	T. V. Pinkham, J. J. McGuire, P. W. Haas (resigned), G. L. Watters, A. McBride, J. R. McKinney, J. Bruniga.

YEAR:	MAYOR:	CLERK:	TREASURER:	ALDERMEN:
1921	H. J. Tegtmeyer	J. L. Blackmore	Emma Glessing	A. McBride, J. R. McKinney, J. Bruniga, Percy Kingdon, John Kinsella, G. L. Watters.
1922	H. J. Tegtmeyer	J. L. Blackmore	Emma Glessing	Percy Kingdon, John Kinsella, G. L. Watters, Peter Thometz, Edgar Vanneman, E. F. Wendland.
1923	J. B. Michels	J. L. Blackmore	C. C. Kingdon	Edgar Vanneman, P. Thometz, E. F. Wendland, William Harris, George F. Bell, J. H. Kyser.
1924	J. B. Michels	J. L. Blackmore	C. C. Kingdon	William Harris, G. F. Bell, J. H. Kyser, M. K. Bohlander, George Toussieng, Ed North.
1925	Dr. R. E. Gordon	J. L. Blackmore	S. J. Kilpatrick	M. K. Bohlander, Ed North, George Toussieng, G. F. Bell, William Harris, J. H. Kyser.
1926	Dr. R. E. Gordon	J. L. Blackmore	S. J. Kilpatrick	William Harris, G. F. Bell, (died: Oct., 1926), J. H. Kyser, M. K. Bohlander, Ben Heiken, C. H. Yambert.
1927	J. B. Michels	M. S. Armstrong	Nell Patterson	M. K. Bohlander, Ben Heiken, C. H. Yambert, William Harris, George Toussieng, Harry G. Crawford.
1928	J. B. Michels	M. S. Armstrong	Nell Patterson	William Harris, D. C. Diers, George Toussieng, Ben Heiken, H. G. Crawford, C. M. Rice.
1929	J. B. Michels	M. S. Armstrong	Herman Marten	D. C. Diers, Louis Volz, C. M. Rice, J. W. Everett, George Toussieng, C. F. Hilger.
1930	J. B. Michels	M. S. Armstrong	Herman Marten	J. W. Everett, C. F. Hilger, George Toussieng, D. C. Diers, Louis Volz, C. M. Rice.
1931	J. B. Michels	Herman Marten	Rose Meddaugh	D. C. Diers, Louis Volz, C. M. Rice, J. W. Everett, George Toussieng, C. F. Hilger.
1932	J. B. Michels,	Herman Marten	Rose Meddaugh	J. W. Everett, George Toussieng, C. F. Hilger, Joseph Kammerer, John W. Davitt, C. M. Rice.
1933	C. M. Rice	Herman Marten	Clara Clark	Joseph Kammerer, John Davitt, C. L. Tegard, J. W. Everett, George Toussieng, C. F. Hilger.

1934	C. M. Rice	Herman Marten	Clara Clark	J. W. Everett, C. F. Hilger, George Toussieng (died, June, 1934), C. C. Toussieng, Joseph Kammerer, John Davitt, C. L. Tegard.
1935-6	C. M. Rice	Herman Marten	Clara Clark	Elmer Shreve, Bert Lemon, C. F. Hilger, J. W. Everett, Fred Eastman, J. A. Owens.
1937-8	C. M. Rice	Herman Marten	Marion Hocker	J. W. Everett, Fred Eastman, J. A. Owens, Joseph Kammerer, Bert Lemon, C. F. Hilger.
1939-40	C. L. Tegard	Herman Marten	Marion Hocker	Joseph Kammerer, C. F. Hilger, A. H. Wolk, Fred Eastman, V. F. Bower, Bert Lemon.
1941-2	J. W. Everett	Herman Marten	Ruth Arbogast	A. H. Wolk, Fred Eastman, V. F. Bower, G. N. Bayless, Bert Lemon, Earl Burroughs.
1943-4	J. W. Everett	Herman Marten	Ruth Arbogast	G. N. Bayless, Bert Lemon, Earl Burroughs, Harry Peters, Theodore Fultz, Arthur Guard.
1945-6	J. W. Everett	Herman Marten	Ruth Arbogast	Theodore Fultz, Harry Peters, Arthur Guard, G. N. Bayless, Bert Lemon, C. E. Barney.
1947-8	J. W. Everett (died Nov. 10, 1947) George W. Graack (elected Apr. 5, 1948)	Herman Marten	Ruth Arbogast	G. N. Bayless, Bert Lemon, C. E. Barney, P. J. Roth, T. W. Wollenschlager, John Smith. Myron Heineke replaced P. J. Roth in May, 1948.
1949-50	George W. Graack	Herman Marten	Loren Ludwig	Myron Heineke, T. W. Wollenschlager, John Smith, Bert Lemon, Ott Panther, C. E. Barney.
1951-2	George W. Graack	Herman Marten	Loren Ludwig	Ott Panther, Bert Lemon, C. E. Barney, R. E. Hocker, T. W. Wollenschlager, John Smith.
1953-4	George W. Graack	Dale S. Robinson	Loren Ludwig	R. E. Hocker, John Smith, T. W. Wollenschlager, Ott Panther, Bert Lemon, Robert Snyder.

CHAPTER 10.

Business and Industrial History

NEWSPAPERS: *The Gazette* was the first newspaper published in El Paso. It contained only four pages, each ten by fourteen inches in size, and made its first appearance with an issue February 1, 1863. It was published every two weeks by Robert Cauch in an office above the Tompkins' Store on Front Street, about where Kil's Tavern is today. It was short lived, and the date it suspended is unknown.

The El Paso Journal, the only paper in Woodford County to be published continuously under the same name, was founded April 5, 1865, by John T. Harper. The first office was located on the site of V. C. Gordon's garage. Harper sold the *Journal* to J. W. Wolfe in November, 1865.

The El Paso True Patriot was published by Charles R. Fiske, beginning with its issue of July 8, 1865. The office was on East Front Street, about where John Berg's trucking garage stands now. The *True Patriot* carried at its masthead the slogans, "States rights," and "the Union as it was," and took barbed cuts at the *El Paso Journal* for being a "negro suffrage" paper. Fiske's support of the southern lost cause faded with his paper, which he sold to J. W. Wolfe in May, 1865, the latter apparently merging it into the *Journal* purchased by Wolfe six months later.

In 1868 we find the name of W. H. Addis & Bro. as the editors and publishers, but that same year Baldwin & Martin became the owners and they moved the plant to a second floor room in the Gibson building on East Front Street that November. Gersham Martin was the publisher in 1872, and E. F. Baldwin from 1872 to 1874, Baldwin probably taking over when the plant was moved October 10, 1872 to offices in the Eagle Block building.

Late in 1874 E. F. Baldwin and J. B. Barnes published the paper; and it was almost a police gazette without the pictures, and sold on trains. In 1877 they moved the plant to Peoria, where Baldwin founded the *Peoria Journal*. Irving Carrier was left in El Paso in charge of the local subscription list and an old hand press was again installed. From 1877 to 1879 Carrier and Coleman were publishers, Carrier selling to W. G. Randall on January 1, 1879, Randall selling his interest to A. L. Hereford May 30, 1881. Coleman retained his interest until



THE OLDEST BUSINESS BUILDING IN EL PASO WAS A TAVERN IN 1895.

1883, then selling to his partner. In 1884 W. D. Meek bought a half interest from Hereford and they continued about a year as partners.

In August, 1884, James Williams and George R. Curtiss started the *Saturday Review* in the rear of the building located on the Illinois Central lawn, opposite the First National Bank, which had served for years as the post office. In 1885, Mr. Meek having bought out his partner, purchased the *Saturday Review* and Curtiss and Williams were then employed by their former competitor until he sold to A. O. Rupp in September, 1886.

Curtiss continued as an employee under the new owner until February 11, 1889, when he bought the paper, selling an interest the next day to Robert Evans. When the Eagle Block burned on July 19, 1894, such equipment as was saved from the fire was moved to the old creamery building which stood east of the White elevator site on Route 24. The *Journal* did not miss an issue, and it returned to the former location when the new bank building was completed in December, 1894. The office and composing rooms were located on the first floor with the press room in the basement. The entrance was on Central Street. All the files of the *Journal* prior to 1888 were lost in the fire, and papers now in existence with a dating prior to 1888 were gathered from subscribers who had saved old copies.

George R. Curtiss bought out Robert Evans September 15, 1904, and from that day until his death on May 2, 1946, he was sole editor and publisher. When the present Telephone Company building was built by H. J. Tegtmeyer in 1912, the *Journal* was moved into its first floor. It continued publication on Saturday until June 23, 1910, when Thursday became publication date. Daily editions were printed during fair weeks.

After Mr. Curtiss died, his brother Chester F. Curtiss continued to publish it until October 18, 1946, when John F. McGuire of Chicago purchased the paper. Chester Curtiss had been associated with his brother for over fifty years, although George remained sole owner. McGuire discontinued publication of *The El Paso Journal* November 16, 1950, and its life span of eighty-five years ended.

The El Paso Advertiser was established October 31, 1940, by Walter L. Bailey, who had long previous experience in the composing room of the *Journal*. For a time he printed his newspaper in Normal, but since the spring of 1942 both offices and pressroom have been located at 26 N. Elm Street. The paper has grown in circulation until it now boasts the largest any El Paso paper has ever had, almost 1,100 copies.

Two other papers made appearances in El Paso, *The Times* being published for a time in the 1890's by M. T. Hyer, and the *El Paso Press*, edited by Edwin Beard, was briefly printed in the same period about where Ted's Grocery is now located.

INDUSTRIES: Details about early businesses are meager in most instances, but available items reveal that there was rapid development through the 1860's. An artist's drawing made in 1869 locates sixteen major industries, one of which has been altered, another moved to a new location, and others have disappeared from the scene.

The feed mill of the El Paso Elevator, successor to the Fridley Elevator Co. is the only one still on the original site, although the building was rebuilt following the fire of May 1, 1890. George L. Gibson and his brother Cyrus established a lumber yard very early in the town's history in the block between Chestnut and Pine just south of the T. P. & W. tracks. Their business was purchased in 1868 by A. S. McKinney of Elmwood and James Hotchkiss of Peoria. McKinney bought out his partner, and in 1890 also purchased a competing lumber yard owned by Lee S. and Guy Straight over on the east Y. Mr. A. S. McKinney then moved the entire yard to the present location of the Kent Lumber Company, where he and his son John R. McKinney operated it. A. S. McKinney, also president of the First National Bank, died on June 18, 1921, and on January 15, 1944, his son retired after selling to the present owners, the Kent Lumber Company, managed by K. A. LaRochelle. In 1952 and 1953 they completely rebuilt the lumber sheds. Since the Gibson brothers established this firm in 1858 or 1859, it is the oldest business in El Paso in the point of continuous operation.

Mitchell, Harper & Co. operated a plow and wagon factory, as well as an iron foundry, south of the T. P. & W. between Elm and Sycamore Streets. The Widman riding cultivator was a product of this company, which began business before 1863. They also manufactured the El Paso Corn Dodger cultivator. Mr. Harper later invented a fly trap, a box of screen wire with a wire funnel pointing upward through the

bottom that had a national sale for some years, and the type is still sold. This firm was composed of S. H. Mitchell, James M. Harper, E. M. Tyler and J. H. Burtis. The factory building was razed in 1903 after being used for a livery and barn for twenty years.

Four other wagon factories were in operation during this period. Muller and McWilliams had their wagon and farm implement shop in the middle of what is now the Corn Belt Park. Across the fence to the south, I. Lemon and his sons, Harvey, Oscar and Dick had a blacksmith shop in connection with their wagon factory. Just east of Jefferson Park John Henning had a wagon factory where the Thom residence now stands, and the Danner Bros. had a similar factory on the south side of the street where the Christian Church is now located.

Buggies and carriages were built by Bigham & McOmber in a plant on Main Street between Sycamore and Walnut. Bigham, a cavalryman in the Civil War, also operated a livery barn in this block, equipping it with their finest buggies.

Anton Huber built a brewery in 1866 on the south side of Main Street at East Commercial where Mrs. Kearfott now lives. Huber sold to Jacob Fix the next year; other beers proved more popular than his and the plant closed in a few years. Dr. J. Q. Adams purchased the walnut lumber which had been used in the buildings, using it on his farm. One of the great underground storage vats caved in only a few years back almost under the corner of Mrs. Kearfott's porch.

David Grafft established a large planing mill on Front Street between Walnut and Summit which provided most of the lumber used by the various factories and much of the buildings in the community.

Lee S. Straight and Elias S. Fursman founded the El Paso Tile and Brick Works and began manufacturing in 1883, digging the clay pits only recently filled. Their office was on the west side of Pine Street, just south of the T. P. & W. tracks. They averaged 15,000 bricks and from 3,000 to 7,000 tile per day, sizes of the latter varying from 3½" to 12".

William Glimpse and son Clint, who manufactured brick in Kappa for many years, purchased a site here in 1890 and continued business for some time. The brick for the massive walls of the McKinley School had been hauled from the Kappa brick factory.

Agitation for sinking a coal shaft developed in the 1880's and in 1888 plans were made for sinking a shaft west of the Illinois Central at the south side of El Paso. Better terms were secured on the James McAlden land just north of town on the east side of the Central's tracks, and a shaft was dug to a depth of 610 feet at a cost of \$1,467.50, paid for by contributions from men in the community interested in getting a coal mine. No coal worth digging was found, and the project was abandoned in June, 1888.

In 1907 A. H. Wolk and Fred Crane built a greenhouse on South Walnut Street between Clay and Lincoln. Their building measured 12

by 100 feet and they grew vegetables as well as flowers. In 1906 the El Paso Carnation Company erected four greenhouses south of the T. P. & W. tracks between Chestnut and Pine Streets. C. L. W. Snyder and G. H. Plumb were partners in the venture, the latter selling his interest to Dr. R. E. Gordon. They purchased the Wolk building and added it to the east side of their plant. For years carnations were a specialty, and when this was discontinued, the name was changed to the El Paso Greenhouses. There have been some changes in ownership, the present proprietors being Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dubuis.

R. L. Beshers built a canning factory just east of the city at the north edge of town in 1912 and began canning tomatoes, finally adding chicken, sweet corn, peas and other products. He moved the factory in 1925 to his farm along the T. P. & W. at the east end of Front Street, and continued operation until 1939.

The Prairie State Canning Company also constructed their plant here in 1912, and it is now the Pfister Hybrid Corn Company's storage warehouse west of Route 51 at the west end of Front Street. This was an extensive plant covering almost a city block, and cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000. That year farmers raised 1,500 acres of sweet corn under contract with the company. Later the company leased its own acres and hired men to farm them. E. A. Selk managed the plant. It finally changed hands and was last leased by the Inderieden Company of Chicago, who operated it from 1934 to 1938. The Pfister Company purchased the plant in 1940.



THE PRAIRIE STATE CANNING COMPANY WAS FOR SOME YEARS A MAJOR EL PASO INDUSTRY MANAGED BY E. A. SELK. PHOTO TAKEN ABOUT 1914.

R. L. Beshers built a creamery and cold storage plant south of the west Y on Route 24 at a cost of \$25,000 which began operation May 11, 1922, manufacturing ice cream and butter. They also canned a few products and rented space for refrigeration of home supplies, particularly meat. Frank S. Cleary leased the plant for several years. It was finally sold to the Pfister Hybrid Corn Company and remodeled into its present office buildings.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hildreth opened the Prairie State Hatchery on Adams Street in 1928. The original plant included the hatchery and brooder house, and a large laying house was added. After Mr. Hildreth's death, Mrs. Hildreth continued the business until 1951.

LIVESTOCK. A community such as El Paso cannot be divorced from the farms which surround it; there are few families not having personal ties with some farm. In the years until about 1935, horses were of prime importance for transportation and for farm power; thus the breeding of fine horses was a part of many farmers' vocations. J. M. Worley, Smith Dixon, W. R. Boyd, John Ward, J. M. Messer, John L. Patton, Christian Geiger and Ed Hodgson were among leading breeders in the late 1870's and 1880's. Ed Hodgson made three trips to Europe, in 1882, 1883 and 1884, returning each time with choice Clydesdale and Englishshire horses for his large stables. William Bohlander was associated with his father, Ben Bohlander, in such breeding, and was probably the last to make a trip to Europe to purchase horses, for in 1911 when they made one trip, power machinery was already making inroads on certain farms.

Porter S. Bassett, who was in Greene Township in 1855, raised Poland China hogs; J. M. Stonebraker specialized in Duroc Jerseys. J. S. Hammers & Son, Cushing Jones, J. L. Patton and J. M. Worley raised Shorthorn cattle; George Yerion and A. D. Hopps preferred Galloway cattle, a breed seldom seen today. Pleasant H. Bigger bred Red Polled stock, while George Yerion added Polled Angus to his Galloway breed.

Today the Angus herd of Charles Rundles and son Warren, and Mark Fruin's Red Polled cattle have probably captured more prizes at shows than any others ever exhibited from our community. Burnell Hayes, with a very limited acreage at Panola, has developed a prize-winning breeding stock of Suffolk sheep. Lyle Armstrong, southwest of El Paso, has one of the largest hog producing operations that has ever been in the area. The feeding of beef for gain is an annual operation of many farms, and usually a profitable way to dispose of a corn crop.

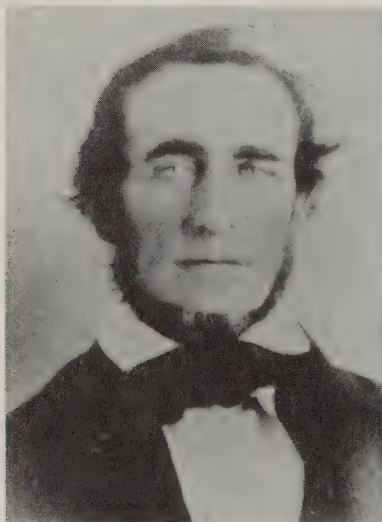
During recent years an expanding program of education in agriculture for farm youth has developed youngsters who present tough competition in the prize ring, from small local shows to the big International Livestock Show in Chicago. Leo Stokes has shown sheep, hogs and cattle at the big show continuously for five years. Glenn Schertz was there in 1950 and Donald Hartter in 1952 and 1953; all received their training through FFA in high school and in 4-H work.

In 1949 an Angus steer named Lucky Strike was shown by Betty Hartter of Kansas Township, and was awarded the junior reserve grand championship. Betty was a student in the El Paso Unit District Grade School at the time. In 1953 an El Paso FFA group under the direction of Arthur Henderson, high school agriculture teacher, won contests in judging livestock which took them to the national competition at Kansas City, Missouri, where they won a gold award for the highest honors awarded on a nation-wide basis. These young experts in the livestock field were Ronald Stimpert, David Kline, Marvin Schneider and Kenneth Lewis, the latter being the alternate on the judging team.

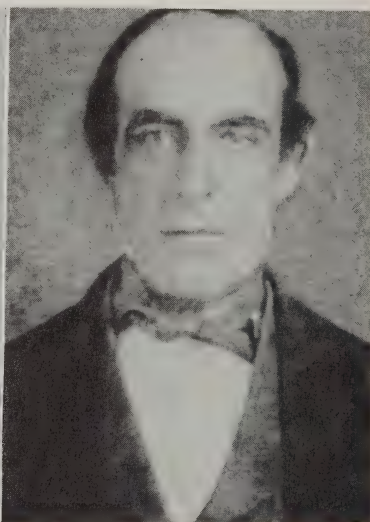
GRAIN ELEVATORS. The first building in El Paso was a small shed erected on the west Y to house tools used by the construction gangs on the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad. The Jenkins brothers, who built the first store in town, also bought large quantities of grain, but they had no elevator, so the farmers scooped it directly from their wagons into cars for shipment by rail.

Early in the 1860's William M. Jenkins sold the stock in his store to George W. Fridley, who conducted the business in the same location. Fridley built another store one block east where Mobley's filling station now stands, and moved his stock there in 1868. The same year he built the original elevator diagonally across the street and operated both the store and elevator until his death in the 1870's.

Jenkins restocked his own store building after Fridley moved out and resumed the sale of general merchandise. After Fridley's death,



ISAAC M. JENKINS, PIONEER
EL PASO BUSINESSMAN.



ROBERT S. JENKINS, THIRD OF THE
THREE BROTHERS WHO WERE EL
PASO'S FIRST STOREKEEPERS.

he purchased the elevator, David Evans later becoming his partner in the grain business. They also had storage bins into which grain was scooped south of the elevator on the west side of Chestnut Street. When the fire of May 1, 1890 destroyed the elevator and the Caroline Bayne and David Hibbs homes just north of it, the grain elevator was rebuilt on the ground where the old one burned. Mr. Evans owned the business after buying his partner's interest when Jenkins moved to California in 1884. He died in 1894. It is today the El Paso Elevator Company's mill, equipped to grind and mix feeds for livestock.

James Seery and George Rouse built an elevator south of the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad tracks on the site now occupied by the El Paso Implement Company. It burned in 1873 and was rebuilt at once. It was operated in turn by W. H. McClellan, W. R. Shuman and F. S. Larison. It burned February 21, 1903 and was not rebuilt.

The Webster elevator was located across the street south of Grafft's planing mill, the site of the waterworks. When the planing mill burned September 19, 1875, the fire spread to the elevator and both were destroyed and not rebuilt.

Two flour mills were built in 1868. George L. Gibson built the first one on the south side of the rails, about midway in the block now the Corn Belt Park. Lawrence Gassner owned it when it was destroyed by fire February 11, 1882. The west mill, located south of the railroad tracks and just east of Route 51, was built by Ives Brothers, but burned in 1869. It was immediately rebuilt on a larger scale, but the owners got into financial difficulty and were declared bankrupt and the property sold. John Ellis, a farmer, converted it into an elevator in 1874, and it changed hands a number of times, being finally operated by John Kinsella who had purchased it from Fred S. Larison. It burned on July 19, 1921.

During the early years these elevators were in operation, wheat and barley were the principal grains shipped. Quantities of grain, hay and flour were shipped from here to the war commissary department in St. Louis during the Civil War with a war tax on each shipment. Freight on a car of grain to St. Louis was \$65 with \$1.62 tax; to Chicago, \$44 with \$1.10 tax. Corn was growing in annual volume and today is the leading product shipped; wheat and barley have given way to oats and beans. All grain is now shipped in bulk in cars that hold more than four times the bushels those early cars held when all of the grain was bagged, each of the little cars holding an average of 165 bags.

After the Civil War many farmers found it difficult to make the payments on the land they had contracted to buy from the Illinois Central, upon completed annual payments. The railroad wanted to keep the land in the hands of the buyers, so it would remain in cultivation and provide freight. Finding the farmers could not pay in dollars, the railroad arranged to take corn at 20 cents per bushel in payment for the debts, and many local farmers managed to keep their land by

this means. An old freight book used by George H. Campbell from October 1, 1864 to February 1, 1866 when he was Illinois Central agent at El Paso, lists the following farmers as shipping to the Land Department of the Central: D. Alward, Philip Tompkins, Alex Hawthorn, J. A. Dix, Robert A. McClellan, C. Weinland, H. L. McOmber, Robert Hodge, Henry Childs, John Ellis, Frank Sutton, L. A. Geiger, Timothy Enright, Sr. and Con Ryan.

Oats sold in El Paso for 8 cents in 1861 and corn for 17, but as freight, commission and warehouse costs were almost 11 cents, the farmer received little cash for his product. As the war went on prices went up as they usually do in war years; by 1863 oats were 60 cents and in June, 1864 corn reached a dollar per bushel. There were sharp fluctuations in prices of grain during and immediately after the Civil War years.

While these early elevators were operating, a public scale was maintained in a small building at the corner of Front and Sycamore Streets, and a city ordinance required that all coal and grain be weighed by a sealer appointed by the city officials. Just how long this method of official weighing was in effect we cannot learn, but the scale house remained until about 1905.

Asa and John Shepard built an elevator on Main Street just east of the Illinois Central tracks in the summer of 1898. The elevating machinery was operated with a ten-horse gasoline engine. In 1908 a group of farmers organized the El Paso Elevator Company and paid the Shepards \$7,250 for their elevator. They later bought the Enright station elevator and built elevators at Panola and Kappa. When the company began business, only three Chicago firms would accept their grain shipments, so new was the farmer-owned grain elevator in Illinois. Today the farmers generally have dropped out of its ownership, and George Burroughs, Melvin J. Remmers and Homer Sturm are practically the sole owners of the stock. At all of its stations, this firm will annually handle close to a million bushels of grain, depending on the crop season.

Following John Kinsella's announcement that he would not rebuild after his elevator burned, Percy Kingdon and a group of seven other farmers and land owners built an elevator and coal yard on the east Y on Main Street, and named the firm the White Elevator Company. It was operated as a partnership for fourteen years, C. C. Kingdon then buying out all the other partners. A veteran of World War I, he leased the business to go back into the army in December, 1941. Ted Wollenschlager then moved to El Paso as manager for the Peoria firm leasing it. Following the war, Kingdon sold it to the Wyoming Grain Company, who in turn sold it to the El Paso Elevator Company in 1953. Fifty years ago there were four grain firms in El Paso; today there is business enough for only one.

LIVERY STABLES. From early days until about 1915 the livery barn provided rented transportation. They not only provided horses and

buggies for hire, but farmers took their horses to the feed barns if they drove to town in bad weather, or they left them there for care if they were making a journey out of town by train. Both the Campbell House and the Clifton Hotel maintained livery stables for many years. Ferguson, Tegard, Sachs, Welte, Mitchell, Patton, Colburn and many others operated livery stables at various times, though all did not provide both services named.

C. V. Patton built a two-story brick livery barn in 1908, located about where John Berg's garage stands now. This and the one now used as the Pierce furniture store were the final barns built, the automobile soon replacing the horse as a means of travel. The Utility Broom Company occupied the building in the 20's, but the growing of broom corn in our area was not very successful because of the labor involved in processing, and the factory discontinued in 1925. The Boyd Motor Company then used the big building for a garage and display room before it was dismantled.

CEMENT PRODUCTS. In April, 1917, Mathias Kammerer of Fairbury opened a cement plant on Front Street at Walnut for the manufacture of cement blocks. J. F. Schofield and Arthur Henning were associated with him for a time. Business was good, and the firm built a new factory south of the railroad on Route 51 in 1919-1920, and Mr. Kammerer's sons joined his company. Fire badly damaged the plant on November 11, 1937, and the business then moved to East Peoria because of better transportation.

OTHER INDUSTRIES. A stock company was formed about 1892 which erected a building south of the east Y where they manufactured butter with George Andrews supervising the business. Prices proved unsatisfactory and the business was discontinued after a few years. *The Journal* occupied the building briefly after the 1894 fire, and in 1907 Arthur Marvin purchased it and for about twenty years operated the Marvin Manufacturing Company in it. Then it became his Chalmers garage and service station. I. J. Jenkins manufactured grain dump carriers and trucks, and later he and R. N. West had lawn swings made there. The S. K. & S. Co. owned by the Skaggs brothers of Danvers at one time manufactured tractor cultivators there, but discontinued sometime in the twenties.

T. E. Boyd had his Buick agency there before moving it to Front Street in 1926. Joe Lyons operated a junk yard there and sold Pontiacs with Sam Levine. Francis Fitzgerald finally took over the junk yard. The building fell into decay, and became a fire hazard, and was dismantled by C. C. Kingdon in 1933.

F. S. Larison bought the John Welte barn and the Burtis shop south of the railroad on Sycamore Street on March 28, 1903, and built a lumber yard on the site. He also operated the old Ellis elevator in the west end of El Paso and sold coal from bins west of his lumber yard. John W. Pleasants purchased the buildings in 1924, converting the lumber sheds into an icehouse, using artificial ice. He also oper-

ated a feed mill built by a Mr. Lehman, located south of the tracks on the east side of Sycamore Street. This building was finally dismantled, as were the old lumber sheds and icehouse.

About 1924 a group of men built a cement block blacksmith shop on the north side of the T. P. & W. tracks at Cherry Street, leasing it to J. J. Kauth of Lexington who had worked in another El Paso shop. He took over the building in 1927, and although he shoes few horses, it is still a busy place today. Between tasks, Jake cares for hundreds of young pheasants in pens southwest of his shop, which the Sportsmen's Club releases on farms in the community.

W. T. Andrews built a cement block building on Cherry Street in 1919 for his dry cleaning business. Harry Wilson built a woodworking shop on Route 24 in 1949. The Owens Phosphate Co. built phosphate storage bins on the east Y in 1949, and added another in 1951. There had been a previous farmers group which erected two large silos south of Route 24 on the east Y about 1919 for the storage and cooperative spreading of phosphate. The company was headed by Robert Mayne and George Shuman, and was ahead of its day, for the plant was finally sold to C. C. Kingdon who dismantled it and sold it to a Bloomington firm.

A large storage tank for anhydrous ammonia was erected on the south end of the east Y in 1953 which will begin distribution in 1954. **LEMON'S ICE POND.** Once a fine winter recreational area of much popularity, as noted before, Mr. Lemon finally purchased the first building owned by the Christian Church and moved it to the pond for the storage of ice. The icehouse burned, and the last one built in 1927 and operated by John Pleasants also burned, and today only the pond remains. It was first supplied with water from the city well, but after two years of reduced rainfall, the council refused to continue to fill the pond, and a well 265 feet deep was drilled for the purpose. In mild winters, natural ice was shipped in from Wisconsin and stored in the icehouse. The pond was condemned by health authorities in 1910 for ice purposes, and with the advent of artificial ice it became useless.

FARM IMPLEMENTS. In 1945 the building formerly occupied by J. W. Pleasants for coal office was dismantled and the lumber used to erect a new shop and display room on the site, which was rented to the Heller Farm Store. In 1953 the Heller company purchased the quonset type warehouse erected in 1946 on Route 24 by the Pfister Associated Growers and added display rooms and an office. They then moved to their new location, using the first building only as a warehouse.

In 1947 the Zehr Farm Supply moved from Front Street to a larger building on Route 24 just east of its intersection with 51. The El Paso Implement Company erected its showrooms and shop in 1948 south of the T. P. & W. tracks opposite Front Street block 42. Ernest Stimpert moved his implement business from Secor following a fire,

in 1953, locating a quonset type showroom and shop on Route 24 a short distance west of 51. The Dunmire Equipment Company, handling earth-moving equipment and tractors, also built offices and display rooms on the north side of Route 24 west of 51.

BULK PLANTS AND FILLING STATIONS. The Standard Oil Company installed the first bulk plant along the east Y in 1894, and in 1949 they moved the plant and enlarged it, to the opposite side of Route 24. Joe Crawford has been associated with this plant since 1926. The Shell Company installed the second bulk plant on Route 24 in 1924, and made Martin Feeney their agent. After his death in 1939 his son Charles Feeney succeeded him and is still the plant distributor. The Sweney Company built their plant also in 1924 on Front Street east of Route 51, and C. E. Barney has been agent since September of that year. John L. Michael erected a storage tank south of the T. P. & W. on Route 51 in 1929. Recently, this was purchased and enlarged into a new plant by the Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Lloyd Jones being their present distributor.

When Dr. C. O. Patton purchased his first car, June 15, 1904, gasoline was sold in grocery and hardware stores. By July 31, 1913 there were 104 cars in the city, thirty more in the township and ninety-four more in the area served by the El Paso Telephone Company. The first reference to any especial service for the new motorists stated that "a gasoline filling outfit was now located in front of the Pinkham and Boyd Garage in Block 43." Other garages added gasoline pumps, but as service stations increased, most of the garages discontinued this service. C. L. W. Snyder built the first drive-in service station at Front and Chestnut Streets in 1925, after going to Beloit, Wisconsin to see one. Many freely predicted a filling station for cars was a wild-cat venture. About the same time, Clarence Massey erected a gasoline pump on his lawn at the southeast corner of Routes 24 and 51, then state routes 2 and 8. The house was moved to the east and a service station then erected on the corner. John L. Michael's station, diagonally across the corner, the Shell Oil station on the northeast corner and the Standard Oil station on the southwest corner were erected in that order, the last one in 1929. The Phillips station on Main Street at Elm was erected earlier in 1926. The Letsinger station on Sycamore Street was erected in 1950 and the Cities Service station at Fayette and Front and the Standard station at Main and Chestnut were both erected in 1951.

The first building actually erected for a garage was built by Clarence Massey at Routes 51 and 24, later replaced by the Sweney station when the Letcher Brothers who leased it purchased the Jimmy Davison building where they are now located. Marion Altum operated a restaurant in the present Letcher garage building before he went into World War II. Louis Knecht erected the second garage building in 1929 on Route 51 at First Street. It has been enlarged several times and now includes a showroom and parts department.

In the fall of 1948 Herschel F. Boyd built a 65 x 116 foot garage and display room on Front Street, which was purchased after his death by Robert Rebbec of Roanoke who operates it today. It is on the site of the old Jenkins store, first business building in El Paso.

HOTELS AND MOTELS. El Paso's first hotel was the Union House, built by John and Eli Bennett in late 1856 at the northwest corner of First and Cherry Streets. W. R. Willis conducted the hotel for seven or eight years before it was converted into a residence. It was reopened by Warner and Hart as the City Hotel, and it mysteriously burned December 3, 1872. After the fire, a store building just north of the hotel site was cut in two and a part moved to the hotel lot, both buildings being converted into residences. The corner house, with some changes, remains; the other was razed to make way for the R. W. Robinson house, now Lucille Stitt Holt's home.

The Pennsylvania House, now the Parkside Apartments, was built by John Cody before 1869. It ran as a hotel for some years, some reports saying the wide porches and basement were used for a beer garden. It became a boarding house, and then a residence.

The Mansion House on Front Street at Cherry where the El Paso Theatre now stands, was built by W. R. Willis in 1864 and 1865, and was operated under various titles: Central House, Johnston House, Pendelton House, Ritter Hotel and the El Paso House. It was burned in the fire which destroyed the east block October 10, 1882 and was never rebuilt.



THE OLD JAMES H. WATHEN HOME IS NOW THE ELMS MOTEL.

The Clifton Hotel was built by a young man named W. H. Ferguson, and it burned in the great fire of July 19, 1894, but was rebuilt on the same site at the corner of West Central and First Streets. It was the center of social affairs of the community for some time. C. M. C. Seaton was the genial proprietor from 1918 until his death in October, 1946. Though the hotel was operated intermittently for some years after his death, the last operator being Mrs. Zilpha Morgan, no meals were served there after 1938. Mr. Ferguson, the builder, died in 1953.

Mrs. Morgan purchased the old James H. Wathen home at Main and Walnut Streets, and noting the rise of automobile traffic on Route 24, converted it into a tourist home in 1939. Individual cabins were added in 1941 and 1946 and an office built in 1947. The house was remodeled to provide a dining room for the traveling public in 1953. Mrs. Morgan named the place the Elms Motel.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Burroughs opened their home for tourists in 1941, and in 1951 they added four cabins to their facilities at 377 West Main Street, and in 1952 built three more. The Travelers' Motel on Route 24 just east of El Paso on Main Street was opened by Mrs. Myrtle Tegard in 1950, and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Tyson are now the managers.

The Corn Belt Motel on Route 51 between Second and Third Streets was built by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Stine early in 1952, and was enlarged in 1953 to sixteen units, also containing a superintendent's apartment.

The Campbell House is covered in Chapter six of this book.



THE CORN BELT MOTEL ON ROUTE 51.

NURSING HOMES. In March, 1947, Mrs. Myrtle Tegard opened the first nursing home in El Paso at 469 Elmwood Court. It was later moved to 398 North Cherry. After Mrs. Bernard Sutton purchased the business she moved it to 404 East First Street, the old M. A. Adams residence. It was recently the Wilkey Nursing Home, and has just been sold to Mrs. Myrtle Tegard, who also operates a nursing home called the Tobein Nursing Home in her original location which she enlarged in 1953. Tobein Nursing Home accepts both men and women; the Wilkey Nursing Home has accepted only women.

RESTAURANTS AND TAVERNS. The White Hut, moved to Adams Street on Route 24 in 1949, the Snack Shop, one-half block west of the Illinois Central on Route 24, the Bus Stop Cafe and Greene's Grill, east and west on the intersection on Route 24, and Mrs. Violet Locke's restaurant on Route 51, were all moved to their present locations or built for restaurant purposes. The Arbor Cafe at 45 West Front Street is operated by Mabelle O. Kilpatrick as the only uptown restaurant, although Bob's Dairy nearby, owned by Robert O. Hocker, handles light lunches. The Helen Smith Tea Room opened for business in the old Donner home at Main and Sycamore Streets in March, 1954.

Saloons and sample rooms dispensed alcoholic beverages of various sorts from the early days, in spite of periodic agitation against it, usually led by the Ministerial Association and the Womens' Christian Temperance Union. The dry forces were successful in 1896 and at later times, but for comparatively brief periods. After the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment the city council voted to issue licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages and four class A licenses were issued July 3, 1933 at \$200 annually. The last vote on local option was in 1943, and the dries were defeated 601 to 220.

At present three taverns are operated under Class C licenses at \$400 annually by Ivan Williams, Harry Mason and Mrs. Mabelle O. Kilpatrick. El Paso Post #6026, Veterans of Foreign Wars, has a club license which costs it a \$60 annual fee.

BANKS. As in most pioneer communities, our first bank established in 1864 by John G. Ferguson and E. T. Disonay was a private institution. Disonay had to sell his interest in a short time because of ill health, and it was purchased by William Shur and his son, A. O. Shur, who then called the firm Shur, Ferguson & Co. Their bank was located in the Strathman Building on Front Street, the second door west of Cherry, but it was moved to the George L. Gibson building further west in the same block as soon as the latter was built.

Ferguson sold his interest to P. H. Tompkins, and in 1871-72 the firm of Shur, Tompkins & Co. built a new three-story building at the corner of Front and Central Streets at a cost of \$60,000 and called it the Eagle Building, since it had a wooden replica of a bald eagle at its highest point. The bank moved to the ground floor of the new building. Tompkins later bought out the other members of the firm.

The bank failed in 1883, and the news accounts at the time said it was because of Tompkin's speculations in the stock market along with other questionable banking practices. There were no bank examinations and no state or federal supervision then, much less a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to keep a check on the banking operations. An announcement of the bank's capital was about all that was given to the public at that time, and this meant nothing. In the settlement after the Tompkins failure, depositors received about 7% of their deposits.

After the failure, S. T. Rogers began discussion of the organization of a new bank, a difficult task. In forming the new bank the organizers were not only confronted by the depressing effect of the Tompkin's failure, but a short time previously, John Harper, a federal revenue collector, Ayers Whittaker, county treasurer, and Louis Feiliche, master in chancery, had all defaulted, the amounts in each case being considerable. Many citizens of El Paso were on the Harper and Whittaker bonds; making good the deficits seriously crippled them financially.

However, the organization of The National Bank of El Paso was completed in June, 1883, with a capital of \$50,000. The stockholders included A. S. McKinney, M. V. Rogers, Dr. Frederick Cole, W. A. Johnston, J. Q. Adams, J. M. Dunn, W. H. McClellan, C. G. Shafer, E. A. Gardner, Henry Greiner, Jasper Gilmore, David Evans, August Strathman, J. S. Hammers, J. I. Kerr, H. L. McOmber, J. L. Patton, W. M. Jenkins, F. B. Stitt and others.

Mr. A. S. McKinney was elected president; J. Q. Adams, vice president, and S. T. Rogers, cashier. Business began July 11, 1883 in the quarters formerly occupied by the defunct Tompkin's bank. F. B. Stitt took over clerical duties two months after the bank opened, and he was named cashier on December 1, 1884, as Mr. Rogers had died on November 10. Mr. McKinney served thirty-six years as president, and when he resigned in 1919 Mr. Stitt was elected to that office. The bank had changed its name to the First National Bank of El Paso. Lewis K. Evans, who began as a bookkeeper April 20, 1885, was elected assistant cashier April 20, 1892 and became cashier in 1919.

That year the bank expanded its facilities, adding the room to the west side which had been occupied by the J. B. Michels drug store. Corner steps were removed and a new entrance at street level was made into a vestibule so the necessary steps would be indoors. Vault and conference rooms were enlarged, and by 1920 the bank had excellent new quarters, still in use..

The depression which followed the stock market crash in October, 1929, reached into the farm communities soon after, and on December 19, 1931, a notice on the door of the bank stated that the Board of Directors had voted to ask the Comptroller of the Currency to take charge of the bank because "withdrawals of deposits have been

continuous, and owing to the very low price of grain and other produce, the borrowers were unable to reduce their loans sufficiently to furnish available cash." Thus the business was suspended, "in order to protect our depositors from possible loss." A. H. Waite was president; J. R. McKinney, vice president, L. K. Evans, cashier, and Max Smith and Charles A. Roberts were assistant cashiers at the time. Robert Hitch, Arthur Henning, M. A. Adams and H. H. Baker were on the Board of Directors.

James A. Williams of Hoopston served as receiver and directed the work of closing the old bank. Meantime a new bank was organized, taking over the liabilities and the good assets of the old bank, and asking for only a 10% waiver of deposits in the old First National. About \$300,000 in deposits were soon released, appreciably lessening community concern.

On September 1, 1932 the new El Paso National Bank opened for business in the quarters of the old bank. J. R. McKinney was elected president; A. H. Waite, vice president, and H. H. Baker, M. A. Adams and W. D. Kitchell were named directors, with Mr. Kitchell moving here from Danvers and assuming the position of cashier of the new bank. Mr. Charles A. Roberts was named assistant cashier, and Mr. L. K. Evans continued a connection in a general capacity. In 1953 the bank installed a night depository. Present officials are Lester Pfister, president; W. D. Kitchell, vice president and cashier; Loren Ludwig, assistant cashier and director; Max Smith and Margaret Henning, assistant cashiers. The first three named, with Frederick B. Baker and Clyde S. Stotler, compose the board of directors.

The history of the Woodford County National Bank was published in a little brochure on its fiftieth anniversary as follows:

On July 20, 1900, S. M. Ferrell, Joseph G. Baker, P. M. Evans, J. F. Schofield and other local businessmen and farmers sent a certificate of organization of a new bank, to be named The Woodford County National Bank of El Paso, to the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, D. C., having applied for a federal charter on June 20, 1900.

As of that date, Thomas P. Kane, then acting comptroller, issued these men Charter No. 5510 to begin the operation of their bank after a sixty day notice period had elapsed. Weekly notices of publication began in the *El Paso Journal* July 28, 1900 and continued until the bank opened September 2, 1900.

S. M. Ferrell was organizer and first president; Joseph G. Baker was vice president and James A. Corbett was elected cashier and a member of the board of directors, which also included George Pinkham, John Fruin, J. F. Schofield and J. F. Sturgeon.

John F. Shepard became president of the bank in 1905 and held that office until his death in 1946, though he had moved to Normal in 1914. George Shuman became a director in 1908 and continued as such until just before his death in 1953. Miss Emma R. Glessing completed forty-five years of service with the bank on September 1, 1950.



THE WOODFORD COUNTY NATIONAL BANK, JANUARY 13, 1918.

Miss Glessing continued her position with the bank until her death on April 3, 1951, some forty years as an assistant cashier and a total total of just under forty-six years.

Both banks were closed by Franklin D. Roosevelt's proclamation of March 6, 1933. The El Paso National reopened on March 15. Ralph A. Burster was appointed conservator for the Woodford County National, which reopened subject to certain restrictions on March 28, and finally without restrictions on January 11, 1935. Charles Turner was cashier, and the officers and directors remained as before: J. F. Shepard, president; Dr. R. E. Gordon, vice president; and directors George Burroughs, Walter Berg, George Shuman and J. F. Sturgeon.

The Woodford County National Bank took over the original Hendron Building at Front and Elm Streets, and put on a new front in 1905. The building was built by James Hendron in 1883, and has been remodeled and enlarged. It was once on fire in the northwest corner, but has never burned.

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION. R. C. Springgate was the first chairman of our El Paso association, organized January 23, 1900, and J. F. Sturgeon was the first Secretary. The first board of directors was composed of J. F. Bosworth, M. A. Adams, F. B. Stitt, F. G. Robinson, R. C. Springgate, E. R. Somers, J. L. Bonar, I. B. Hammers and R. J. Evans. The association is still in operation with John L. Blackmore, president; George Shadewaldt, vice president; Max Smith, secretary and treasurer and Ira Bilbrey and C. M. Feeney, directors.

Mr. Smith has his headquarters in the lobby of the El Paso National Bank.

TELEPHONES. Communication with one's neighbors was a more difficult task in the early days, since telephones were not available

locally until after 1880. For some time there was only one in the community, and that was strictly for long distance service. A. L. Hereford, editor of *The El Paso Journal*, stated in the issue of July 1, 1883: "The telephone, which up to last Monday was located in the *Journal* office, has been removed to Sneed and Hayward's store, the reason being that we could not attend to it, and it did not pay us for the time we spent. Our commission for the month of May was \$1.90." The April 18, 1885 issue said: "The telephone men are connecting Chenoa and Bloomington with El Paso. Since the instrument has been in Tobias' store we have been able to reach Bloomington only by way of Peoria."

During the next ten years local residents became interested in telephones, and on April 20, 1895, the *Journal* stated: "Some five or six houses northeast of town are connected by telephone with a line four or five miles in length, the Lees, Kingdons and others being on the line." *The Journal* didn't say so, but that telephone line was actually an insulated barbed wire fence, held up high by taller poles at either side of the gates and crossroads.

Charles M. Westcott was granted a franchise in December, 1896, and installed a few telephones, with his hardware store as headquarters, but discontinued it after a few years. Dewitt York perhaps was the first person in El Paso to install his own telephone, if his tin cans and wire combinations could be dignified by that name. According to A. E. Smith, it connected his home and barber shop, and you could talk over it. L. J. Sturm reported that the Sturm, Van Meter and Hodgson barns were connected with the same type of telephone service before the conventional types were installed in homes, the builders of the line using directions from a popular magazine.

James Carroll was local manager for the Peoria and Eastern Co., a part of the Bell system, which had its office in the North Building, south of the T. P. & W. railroad on Elm Street. Minnie North was one of the operators. It published a list of thirty-two patrons on September 9, 1899, which included many business houses but very few homes. At this time the rates were set by the city council for various utilities, and this company later raised its rates, contending they had purchased the franchise on June 6, 1898 originally granted the Central Union Co. which had no rate stipulation; consequently, they claimed they were not bound by the requirements. This brought about litigation and the Peoria company discontinued its service around 1900.

Dr. R. E. Gordon had early recognized the importance of this new medium and he experimented with equipment rented from the Farr Construction Supply Co. In 1898 he acquired two transmitters and two receivers, paying a rental on the Bell patent, and connected them with wires between his home and office. This was successful, so he contacted others in the community who were interested in such communication. The first group included the families in Panola Township

already connected by their own telephones, mentioned previously. Mrs. Gordon became the first switchboard operator, the homemade board being located in their home. As lines were added, different toned bells indicated which line the patron was using.

The first subscribers were George H. Eft, who had started the project among the Eft families; J. C. Render, William Mool, Joseph H. Eft, William Eft, Lewis C. Kingdon, Sidney Kingdon, Lewis McOmber, W. A. Grundy and A. C. Jones, all in the country. In the city the users were M. H. Render, Henry Eft and Dr. Gordon, all the on same line, and on another city line were the *Journal*, C. M. Westcott, James Messer and Isaac Cannon; a third line carried the phones of Dr. Stubblefield and the Shreve & McWilliams store. There was also a McLean County line connecting with the Gordon exchange.

In addition to the Central Union Co., franchises granted prior to 1900 included the McLean County Telephone Co., July 5, 1898, and F. C. Stanford and James Heald, April 13, 1899, all being permitted "to erect telephone poles and wires in the city." So far as we find, the McLean County Co. confined its service to Shearer Bros., Shepard Bros., F. S. Larison and the First National Bank. The first three were grain firms, using the service for markets and sales of grain.

The El Paso Telephone Co. was granted a franchise September 2, 1901. At the organization meeting held September 20, 1901, the following officers were elected: Dr. R. E. Gordon, president; J. L. Bonar, secretary and general manager and M. A. Adams, A. W. Shepard and A. E. Fleming, directors. Over 100 subscribers were listed when the new service began on December 16, 1901. This was the first company to seek rural subscribers. Dr. Gordon later purchased the shares of most of the other stockholders, and was president and general manager of the business until his death on November 16, 1951.

From the original twenty-five subscribers the company now serves approximately 1,100 patrons, with 250 farm homes on thirty-two rural lines. Toll service reaches all points, some of the longest toll calls being from Marjorie Mayne Busey on Guam who called her parents in El Paso several times. The first Stromberg-Carlson switchboard the company installed was in a small building near the present office, after the business outgrew Mrs. Gordon's switchboard in her home. In 1912 H. J. Tegtmeier built the fireproof brick and tile structure to the specifications required by the El Paso Telephone Company and *The El Paso Journal*, and rented the upper and lower floors respectively to these two companies. In 1920 the present system of underground cables was begun, the second company in Illinois to adopt this plan. Manual telephones are used.

Miss Emma Geiger began work at the telephone switchboard August 31, 1908, and served as chief operator until March 1, 1953. Her sister, Miss Rose Geiger, began work in 1911 and still serves a four-hour shift five afternoons each week. Miss Emma Boyd retired about a year ago after a long period of service, most of it as night operator.

UNDERTAKERS. Prior to 1900 a number of undertakers located here for brief periods, William Neifing and William Zinkan probably remaining the longest period. Both were here in 1869 when Neifing buried the Count, Ludwik Chlopicki. Mr. Zinkan was here until his death in 1908. Most of these early morticians had another business; Neifing dealt in harness and Zinkan in furniture. In 1896 Joshua J. DeMotte of Eureka began business in the W. O. Springgate store, also operating a furniture business. John W. Becker also acted as an undertaker upon occasion, as did Burt L. Brown at a later date. By 1919 DeMotte had almost all the business and then sold to J. J. Ficken who had just returned from overseas war service and decided to locate in El Paso. At first Ficken had his funeral home on East Front Street where Rathburn's pool hall is now located; he then purchased the old Capt. W. M. Bullock home at Second and Grant Streets and converted it into a modern funeral home with living apartments upstairs. DeMotte continued in his furniture business. Mr. Ficken was killed in a tractor accident on his farm August 6, 1942, and his widow sold the business to R. W. Vincent and Albert Otto January 23, 1943, Mr. Vincent buying the Otto interest on January 1, 1950. He now operates in both El Paso and Roanoke.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE. One of the most promising businesses ever to originate in El Paso was the Belt Automobile Indemnity Association, formed by C. J. Alyea and five associates on November 13, 1913. For a time the business was conducted from his home. It was new; automobile insurance was a thing in demand, and soon Alyea opened larger offices in the Woodford County National Bank building. The firm soon outgrew all the space there, and purchased the Lemon



THE BELT AUTOMOBILE INDEMNITY ASSOCIATION OFFICES ON EAST FRONT STREET ABOUT 1917.

Building on East Front Street in January, 1916, soon doubling that capacity. By 1923 the firm felt that El Paso was too small for its operations and they moved to a location on Lawrence Avenue in Chicago. There the business got into difficulties, and finally liquidated in 1933.

OLDEST BUSINESS. John B. Michels purchased a half interest in the Charles A. Strathman Drug Store July 1, 1883, and later became the sole owner. In 1896 he purchased the Hoagland Building and moved his business into the east room of that location. He moved into the west room in 1919 and gave a twenty-five year lease on his east room to the First National Bank, which incorporated it into their bank remodeling, today the west half of the El Paso National Bank. When Mr. Michels died in 1935, his wife Sophie C. Michels continued to operate the business. Upon her death in 1946, it fell to Arnold and Josephine Michels, who today still operate the drug store. Thus, this firm has been in the hands of one family for seventy-one years, the oldest such business establishment in El Paso. As noted elsewhere, the oldest professional office in town is Dr. C. O. Patton's dental establishment.



MICHEL'S DRUG STORE ABOUT 1898,
EL PASO'S OLDEST FAMILY BUSINESS.

EL PASO BUSINESS DIRECTORY, 1869.

East Front Street from Cherry to the I.C.R.R.: Mansion House, W. R. Willis, Prop.: Strathman Furniture and Undertaking; Carl Busch, saloon and bowling alley; Miller & Sights, Milinery; *The El Paso Journal*, printing offices; George L. Gibson & Bro., hardware; Harper & Polhemus, grocery; L. R. Rogers, drugstore; Springgate Drugstore; Green & Cook, grocers; Benjamin F. Baker, attorney; Zinser & Co., hardware; T. H. Brenn, meat market; Roberts & Son, dentists; Dr. J. Q. Adams; Dr. D. W. Lamme; Mrs. H. Johnson, dress-maker; J. H. Hanna & Co., dry goods; August Cazelet, grocer; Campbell & Johnson, tailor shop and clothing store, S. T. Curtiss, manager; Shur, Tompkins & Co., bankers; Post Office, J. H. Moore, postmaster; Strother Barber Shop in the J. D. Parks J. P. office on the alley.

Front Street from Central to Elm: Ingersoll, Harper & Cassell, lawyers; Joseph Zanies, cigar factory; S. T. Rogers, first druggist in El Paso; J. H. Crawford, furniture, with Crawford's Hall upstairs; E. M. Dever, dry goods; H. Tobias & Son, grocers; Phillips Drug Store, O. P. Richards, manager; Christian G. Schafer, general merchandise; George Goebel, saloon; Dr. J. H. McCann, physician and druggist; J. P. Holmes, insurance; Dr. Ferbrache, dentist; W. B. Carson, photographer and insurance; Dr. D. Lewis; Dr. Frederick Cole; McCulloch & Cloud, attorneys; Milton H. McCloud, insurance; McKeen & Towner, grain buyers, with offices in the Seery & Rouse elevator and implement store south of the railroad.

Front Street from Elm to Sycamore: Hebden Jewelry; G. Z. Tobias & Bro., jewelers; John Kraft, barber; John Stock, boots and shoes; Moulton Grocery; McLafferty & Peck, meat market; Young Bros., tailor and ready-made clothing; Cazalet & Anthenat, bakery and confectionery; John Panter, tailor and ready-made clothing; J. P. Ferrell, general store; J. J. Brown, photographer; Dr. L. B. Martin, "Botanic physician"; Kerr & Whittlesay, grocers. On Front Street between Sycamore and Walnut Streets were Walter Burlingim, hardware; Dennis Kearney, grocer and George Kraker, baker.

Businesses in various other locations included Sach's Livery on Central Street where the Telephone Company building now stands; the Union House, corner First and Cherry Streets; Tin Shop, now 154 East First St.; Pennsylvania House, now 180 East First Street; Thayer Photograph Shop, present City Hall site; William Neifing, harness shop and undertaking business, Elm Street, opposite today's City Hall site.

EL PASO BUSINESS DIRECTORY, MARCH, 1896.

Attorneys: A. M. Cavan, J. F. Sturgeon.

Barbers: J. L. Robeson, L. B. Taylor, A. C. Foltz, A. Jackson, David A. Strother.

Bakeries: John Dershai, Peter Thometz.

Boots and Shoes: Kuhn Bros., Wilson & Sanborn.

Blacksmith: C. A. Drury, O. J. Lemon, George Stambach.

Clothiers: George Burster, Patton & Bonar.

Coal: W. G. Brady, Isaac Cannon.

Carpenters: L. B. Renard, William Renard; W. W. Stafford, John Fishburn, John Bryan, Frank Allen, George W. Braddy, C. M. Clute, John Culbertson, L. S. Calkins, James McAlden, David Hibbs, John Smith, John Loyster, William Ross, L. F. Tobias, Robert Robinson, C. C. Tarman, O. K. Tobias, M. L. Van Meter, Ed Tarman, C. Mathis.

Wood and Iron Workers: Johnson Bros.

Drugs: D. Dunn, J. B. Michels.

Draymen: Frank Dorsey, J. W. Messer, William Reid, W. F. Keys, John Lane, D. Tegard.

Dentists: Dr. J. A. Schofield, Fishburn & Patton.
 Dairy: Elmer Shreve.
 Dry Goods & Groceries: Thos. Doyle, I. K. Tegtmeyer, McCord & Co.
 Dry Goods: Springgate & Ferrell, S. H. Worthington.
 Electric Light Co.: Adams & Gough. Harrold Ferrell, electrician.
 Bank: The First National Bank of El Paso.
 Furniture: W. O. Springgate, Zinkan & Son.
 Grain: J. T. Bonar, David Evans.
 Grocers: George Cockbill, N. B. Seidel, J. N. Valentine, L. O. Wolk, J. T. Kearney, A. Smith & Son.
 Gunsmith: J. T. Burtiss.
 Hardware: A. H. Waite, O. C. Guillemont, Peter Haas.
 Harness: Alfred Glessing, William Kridner.
 Horse buyers: J. F. Schofield, J. A. Dearth.
 Illuminating oils: J. M. Hibbs.
 Insurance: W. H. Hoagland, J. I. Kerr, Thomas Patterson, F. G. Robinson.
 Jewelers: W. H. Craig, L. A. Gardner, J. D. Jenkins, F. L. Kyser.
 Junk dealer: Robert Porter.
 Livery: C. B. Augustine, John Welte, Tegard & Cavan.
 Lumber: McKinney & Co.
 Masons and Plasterers: Dorsey & Leonard, George Toussieng.
 Meat Markets: W. I. Strickland, Somers & Thorpe, Parmalee & Porter.
 Millinery: Mrs. Ida Hayden, Miss C. Niswonger.
 Musical instruments: E. P. Armstrong.
 Nurseries: William Blumenshine, George L. Gibson.
 Painters: William Bryan, Shaw & Corridan, John Walters, A. S. Williams.
 Photographer: Levi F. Smith.
 Restaurants: William Dorsey, W. H. Fitzgerald, H. Fritzen, William Kauffield, Michael Render.
 Sewing machines: J. R. Sweet.
 Stock buyers: Andrews & Pleasants.
 Real estate: C. L. Pleasants, H. Schwitters, Tyler & Jenkins, Thorpe Bros.
 Farm implements: C. M. Westcott, S. H. North.
 Tailors: Frank Wolk, J. S. Collins, S. T. Curtiss.
 Tinner: D. S. Thomas.
 Undertakers: J. W. Edwards, Zinkan & Heinrichs.
 Broom manufacturer: George Fall.
 Physicians & Surgeons: S. L. Kerr, F. A. Stubblefield, R. E. Gordon, M. V. Gunn, J. A. Smith, W. R. Van Hook.
 Veterinarians: George Green, J. W. Parkinson.
 Hotels: Campbell House, Geo. H. Campbell, prop., Clifton Hotel, W. H. Ferguson, prop.
 Justice Court: Cyrus P. Shur, J. P.
 Wagon Maker, Adam Brown.
 Newspapers: *The El Paso Journal*, Geo. R. Curtiss, editor; *The Times*, M. T. Hyer, editor.

EL PASO BUSINESS DIRECTORY, 1953.

West Front Street

No. *Business and proprietor or manager.*

1. El Paso National Bank. W. D. Kitchell, V.P. and Cashier.
5. Michels Drug Store, Arnold and Josephine Michels.
9. Donze's Grocery and Market, Virgil Donze.
11. F. G. Berta, jewelry.
15. Bob's Dairy Store, Robert Hocker.
19. Kitchell Insurance Agency, W. D. Kitchell & W. F. Kitchell.
23. Topsy's Place, tavern, Ivan Williams.

25. Baity's Hardware, Burton Baity.
 29. Hynes Hdw. and Elec. Co. Wm. L. Hynes, Prop.
 33. Hornsby's Store, Miss Violet Morris, Manager.
 35. Dr. Gordon D. Heiple, dentist. (second floor)
 37. Martens Clothing Store, Herman Marten.
 43. Gamble Store, Thomas O'Leary.
 45. The Arbor Cafe, Mabelle O. Kilpatrick.
 49. Kroger Store, Mervin Kemp.
 51. Thomas's Ready to Wear Store, Glenn Thomas.
 53. West's Bakery, Clarence West.
 101. Woodford County National Bank, C. C. Kingdon, Cashier.
 111. Nohren Grocery, P. D. Nohren.
 115. V. F. Bower's Garage, V. F. Bower.
 117. Leenhouts Radio Sales & Service, Buzz Leenhouts.
 119. Thornton-Benson Insurance Agency, Frank L. Thornton.
 123. Kil's Tavern, William Kilpatrick, manager.
 125. Sampen Hardware, Raymond Sampen.
 129. El Paso Locker & Grocery, J. W. McHugh and Roy Kinnamon.
 131. Ritterbusch Drug Store, Fred Ritterbusch.
 133. El Paso Produce Co., Joseph E. Wendland.
 135. Ted's Grocery, T. W. Wollenschlager.
 137. Pierce's Furniture Store, Robert G. Pierce.
 120. El Paso Veterinary Service, E. E. Kelsey, D. V. M.
 399. R. P. Lykkebak, M. D.
- North Sycamore
49. McGuire's Body Shop, Galen McGuire.
- North Elm
22. Baity's Annex, Mrs. Ruth Baity.
 24. Tucker's Barber Shop, Lloyd Percy Tucker.
 26. *The El Paso Advertiser*, Walter L. Bailey.
 28. Snow Insurance Agency, Ivan H. Snow, C. W. Mahaffey.
 52. City Hall and El Paso Fire Co. station.
- North Central
2. Andrews Barber Shop, Gayle Andrews.
 10. Vernon Haas, D. D. S., (second floor).
 18. Baker & Baker, Law, Frederick B. Baker, (second floor).
 20. Illinois Power Co., Lee Schertz.
 40. El Paso post office, P. J. Roth, postmaster.
 42. C. O. Patton, D. D. S. (second floor).
 42. Uptown Beauty Shop, Goldie Blackmore.
 54. El Paso Telephone Co., Virgil C. Gordon.
 700. Woodford County Machine Shops.
- East Jefferson
537. Albert Turner, ice dealer.
- East Front
11. Janssen's Grocery, Paul F. Janssen.
 19. Bowling Alley, Dale Rathbun.
 21. Campbell's Confectionery, Julia C. Campbell.
 25. El Paso Post No. 59, The American Legion.
 27. Hughes Heating & Plumbing, C. R. Hughes.
 33. Benedict Plumbing & Heating, Frank Benedict, Harold Benedict.
 35. Franke Produce Co., Mrs. Walter Franke, Merlyn Franke.
 37. Dri-Gas Co. Store, Wayne West, manager.
 39. Cryer Clinic, C. E. Cryer, D. O.
 41. Schramm's Shoe Store, Harry Schramm.
 - 45-51 Foltz Motor Co., Francis C. Foltz.
 53. El Paso Theatre, Donald Rist, Robert Rist.
 101. Rebbec Motor Co., Robert Rebbec.

165. Berg Trucking Co., John Berg.
 154. J. J. Kauth Blacksmith Shop.
 158. El Paso Elevator Co., mill, John Everett, manager.
 201. Shell Oil Station, William Mobley.
 222. El Paso Greenhouses, Harry Dubuis, Clara Dubuis.
 North Grant
 3. C. T. Keamey, M. D.
 209. Vincent Memorial Home, R. W. Vincent.
 East First
 404. Wilkey Nursing Home, Mrs. Marguerite W. Hendry.
 Elmwood Court.
 469. Tobein Nursing Home, Mrs. Myrtle Tegard.
 East Third
 352. Pope & Pope, chiropractors, Darwin H. Pope, D. C., Isabel Pope, D. C.
 South Fayette Street
 398. Frake's Grocery, Burton Frakes.
 101. Sweney Service Station, Carl Williams & Son.
 North Fayette
 23. Locke's Restaurant, Violet Locke.
 25. Cities Service Station, Aldrich Bros.
 38. Pfister Hybrid Corn Co., west warehouse, Lester Pfister.
 102. Knecht Garage, Louis H. Knecht.
 197. Evans Grocery, Richard Evans.
 200. Corn Belt Motel, Richard Stine.
 East Main
 10. El Paso Elevator Co., main office, Homer Sturm, manager.
 195. Standard Service Station, Alfred Wessel.
 250. Wilson Woodworking Shop, Harry Wilson.
 701. The White Hut, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Ripsch.
 775. The Travelers' Motel, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Tyson.
 West Main
 27. Pfister Hybrid Corn Co., main offices, Lester Pfister.
 48. The Snack Shop, Audley Hutton.
 66. Phillips Service Station, Roger Benson.
 99. El Paso Post No. 6026, Veterans of Foreign Wars.
 303. The Elms Motel, Zilpha Morgan.
 377. Burroughs Tourist Cabins, Earl Burroughs.
 565. Zehr Farm Supply Store, Wayne Zehr.
 568. Letcher Bros. Garage, Ralph Letcher, Walter Letcher.
 573. Mason's Tavern, Harry Mason.
 574. Bus Stop Cafe, Mrs. Grace Punke.
 599. Shell Service Station, Geo. Edwards, manager.
 600. Standard Service Station, Harold Thorndyke.
 601. Day's Service Center, William L. Day.
 607. Greene's Grill, Nelson Ted Greene.
 Route 24 West
 Stimpert Implement Co., Ernest Stimpert.
 Dunmire Equipment Co., Lester Dunmire & Sons.
 Heller's Store, Martin Bud Heller.
 Dri-Gas Bulk Plant, Wallace Etcheson, manager.
 Miscellaneous
 209 N. Adams Lebo's Service Station, H. T. Lebo.
 348 N. Douglas Midget Market, Mrs. Lucille Williams.
 52 N. Cherry Andrews Cleaning Service, Wm. T. Andrews.
 301 N. Lovejoy Roush's Barber Shop, Roy Roush.
 99 W. Second Raymond Shoemaker, painter.
 177 S. Central B. W. Shoemaker, paper hanger and painter.

250 S. Orange	Frank Hartzell, paper hanger and painter.
304 E. Second	Arthur Lee, paper hanger and painter.
110 N. Adams	John L. Blackmore, painter.
17 S. Sycamore	Letsinger Service Station, Jos. M. Letsinger.
18 S. Sycamore	Bowman Body Shop, William F. Bowman.
297 N. Pine	Luan's Beauty Nook, Luan Smith.
453 E. Fifth	Mary's Beauty Shop, Mary Pinkham.
East Y	Owens Phosphate Co., Louis Meier, manager.
33 S. Walnut	Louis Volz, electrician.
11 E. Fifth	Guy Fletcher, salvage.
378 W. Clay	Harvey Wingstern, carpenter.
250 W. Fourth	Albert E. Smith, carpenter.
548 W. Jefferson	Emory Grant, carpenter.
293 Lovejoy	Eugene Mool, carpenter.
250 E. Main	Harry Wilson, carpenter.
498 N. Central	Glenn Hendry, carpenter.
251 W. Lincoln	H. E. Reckling, carpenter.
299 S. Elm	L. J. Sturm, carpenter.
299 E. Fourth	Claude North, carpenter.
775 E. Main	Chester Tyson, carpenter.
R. F. D.	Merle Pinkham, carpenter.
Panola	Mack Sands, carpenter.
Hudson R. F. D.	Foster Radebaugh, carpenter.
396 N. Fayette	Louie Meier, trucker, fertilizers.
342 W. Clay	Howard Kraft, trucking, fertilizers.
453 E. Fifth	Bruce Pinkham, trucking.
257 S. Elm	Richard Stine, trucking.
198 S. Pine	Roscoe Newkirk, trucking.
198 S. Pine	Raymond Newkirk, trucking.
US 24	Ray Whitwood, trucking.
295 W. Lincoln	Kenneth Faulk, furniture repairman.
154 W. Main	O. L. Arbogast, poultry sales.
175 E. Lincoln	Tony Hayes, poultry sales.
247 E. Fifth	Harold Bailey, painter, electrical work.
603 E. Third	Donald V. Eastman, J. P., magazine sales, World Books.
397 W. Main	C. E. Barney, bulk Sweney distributor.
602 E. Second	Jos. Crawford, bulk Standard distributor.
78 E. First	Lloyd D. Jones, bulk Mobilgas distributor.
563 E. Third	Kenneth E. Lebo, bulk Phillips distributor.
254 E. Third	Joe Letsinger, bulk Aladin distributor.
102 N. Adams	Dale Scott, bulk Standard distributor.
502 N. Adams	Lester Smith, carpenter.

CHAPTER 11.

Churches

GERMAN EVANGELICAL congregations probably held the earliest organized church services in our community, as they were meeting on a more or less regular schedule in the Mohr settlement northwest of El Paso in the early 1850's. Reverend Hoffman was the pastor, and all of the meetings were held in private homes. In 1864, when the Reverend Shoemaker was pastor, the congregation decided to build a church in El Paso. George L. Gibson gave them a lot on the northwest corner of Second and Pine Streets where the P. J. Roth home stands and they purchased another lot next west of it for \$100.

They erected a frame church on the site, and in 1877 purchased a parsonage at the northwest corner of Third and Grant Streets. For a time this congregation also held services at the Walnut Grove Mission southwest of El Paso. The congregation finally diminished in numbers and the church building and parsonage were sold to J. D. Jenkins on April 30, 1902 for \$2,500. The old church was used from that date for the newly developing game of basketball, but was torn down in 1910 to make way for W. H. Kingdon's new residence.

THE KAPPA METHODIST EPISCOPAL church at first held its meetings in the Kappa depot, where ten persons organized a "class" in 1855, earliest in any of the new towns. Members of the Evangelical Church also worshipped with these Methodists, and an agreement was finally reached in preparation for building a church which contained the statement: "The Methodist Episcopal Church is to be held in trust by a board of trustees from the M. E. Church and the Evangelical Church, with a majority of one of the trustees to be from the Methodist Church; the building to be used by itinerant ministers of both conferences on alternate Sundays." The first trustees were William Whitmer, James Jaynes, Conrad Waugh, Emanuel Paul, E. M. Dixon and William North.

James and John C. Jaynes, Emanuel Paul, Charles Bingner and William North served as the building committee. Thomas Dorsey and his son did the masonry and John Miller of Hudson built the church. Caleb Horn finished the basement and built the fence to enclose the lot. The church was finished in 1874 at a cost of \$2,400 including stoves, furniture and fence. It never had a resident minister, being served by pastors located in El Paso, Gridley and Hudson. The Evangelicals withdrew in 1922-23 and the Methodists continued until the



GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH AT PINE
AND SECOND STREETS, TORN DOWN ABOUT 1910.

church burned July 4, 1941. It was thought sparks from a Roman candle of some celebrating youngsters caused the fire.

THE PANOLA BAPTIST church was built about 1866, but the congregation had been organized in 1857. W. A. Nelson was ordained there June 8, 1889. After 1900 the congregation steadily diminished and the building was sold to R. L. Beshers in 1912. He dismantled it and the lumber was used in building his El Paso canning plants. The windows in the east end of the auditorium of the El Paso Christian Church are



THE OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FIRST TO BE ORGANIZED IN EL PASO.

from this old Panola church. The bell was taken to the Evangelical Church in El Paso in time for the Thanksgiving service in 1911, and is still in use in their tower. Panola has no church today, but after the Baptist Church was closed a union Sunday school was held for some years in the town hall or the schoolhouse, and occasionally one or the other of the El Paso ministers would help by conducting a worship service in Panola.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ministers preached on alternate Sundays in Panola and Kappa, beginning with the Reverend Frost in 1856. In March of 1857 he held the first Presbyterian worship service in El Paso in a passenger car temporarily located on the east Y. During the

three months he worked here he organized a union Sunday school with James North as superintendent that continued for some years.

There were only a dozen houses in El Paso when a small group met on May 11, 1857 in a carpenter shop on East Front Street and sat on nail kegs in lieu of chairs. The Reverend F. N. Ewing presided, and the meeting organized the First Presbyterian Church of El Paso. Among the charter members were Silas W. Ogden and wife, Margaret; Dr. Samuel L. Kerr and wife, Caroline; John R. Gaston and wife, Frances, and John R. Bingham, all of whom came from Ohio. The first year the Reverend James Mahan preached here once a month, probably in the homes of the members. In 1858 the services were held on alternate Sundays in the James Crawford hall, shared with the Baptists. In March, 1859, the Reverend William T. Adams who lived at Deer Creek, became pastor on a part time basis, soon moving to El Paso.

The first church built was of frame construction and was located on the site of the present church north of Franklin Park on Second Street. It cost \$3,200 and was dedicated in December, 1864 by the Reverend W. W. Harsha, D. D. of Chicago. The building committee included John R. Bingham, Silas W. Ogden, M. T. Polhemus and the Reverend J. H. Bourn, first resident minister. In 1887 the house next east of the church was purchased from C. Clark for \$900 for a parsonage. It was sold in 1895 and a new manse built two blocks east at a cost of \$2,500.

In 1903 the old church was razed and the present one of brick and stone erected. Reverend Charles McClure was minister; the building committee was composed of A. S. McKinney, A. E. Fleming, George Shuman and S. W. Sturgeon, and they employed W. B. Renard as the supervising contractor. The new building was dedicated January 31, 1904. It is now the Federated Church.

THE EL PASO BAPTIST CHURCH was organized on January 21, 1858, when the following persons met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Crawford located where Miss Olive Engle now lives: Reverend and Mrs. William Branch, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis B. McOmber, Anthony and Sarah Daffern, Harriett McOmber, James Hewitt, Elizabeth McClellan and Henry H. Hewitt. Mr. Hewitt's letter from his previous church had not been received, but he was accepted as a charter member on the group's knowledge of him. Israel D. McOmber who was critically ill and died within ten days, was not present but was accepted as a charter member as were Alice and Deborah Whittaker. L. B. McOmber and A. Daffern were the first deacons; H. H. Hewitt was the first clerk.

The group first held services in various homes, with members being admitted. The church record states for December 1858 that "Brethren John and Henry North and wives were received on experience, the church at Kappa, with which they were connected, having disbanded." The February 12, 1859 record reads: "It was voted to receive the communion service used by the Kappa church if it can be donated with-



THE OLD BAPTIST CHURCH, CHERRY AND SECOND STREETS, REPLACED IN 1911.

out reservation." These are the only records we find of a Baptist Church having been organized at Kappa.

On October 1, 1859 the new Baptist organization rented Crawford's Hall for six months at \$5 monthly, which they reduced to \$36 per annum when they renewed the rental contract at their May, 1860 board meeting. This hall was located where the Gayle Andrews home now stands at Second and Cherry Streets. From 1860 to 1862 the El Paso and Panola Baptist churches were served by one pastor, but the El Paso church decided to contribute his entire salary of \$600 in 1862 in order that they might have his entire time. The Sunday School was organized in Crawford's Hall, the exact date being unavailable.

Mr. Branch served as pastor until 1860, followed by S. F. Stimson who served until December, 1865. During 1864 a frame church, 40 by

60 feet, of Gothic architecture, was built in the southwest corner of Cherry and Second Streets facing Franklin Park. The building committee was composed of J. H. Van Meter, H. H. Hewitt, Thomas Patterson and C. J. Libbey. It was dedicated in December, 1864, and cost approximately \$6,000, including the bell and furnace.

In 1884 a parsonage was purchased, located at the southeast corner of Cherry and Fourth Streets. In the summer of 1884 an addition was built to the church to provide space for Sunday School classes, etc., which cost approximately \$2,500 including new lighting and decorations.

In 1911, although the congregation did not have a pastor, a building program was launched. The old structure was razed and the present building of terra cotta brick with stone and black wood trim was erected at a cost of \$18,250. The building committee included A. C. Jones, I. B. Hammers, Harvey Leonard and Omer North, with L. K. Evans serving as treasurer. Joseph A. Reichel, the contractor, had the new church complete in time for dedicatory services held April 13, 1912. During the summer of that year the ambitious congregation erected a new parsonage on the site of the old one.

Dr. Robert Edwin Worley, a medical missionary from this church was drowned in Swatow Bay in China on June 27, 1907. His brother, Lewis Worley, was ordained in the El Paso Baptist church July 2, 1907, also serving as a missionary in China for seven years.

THE FEDERATED CHURCH has been organized from a combination of the Presbyterian and Christian Churches, the outgrowth of plans discussed at meetings of the two groups held October 29 and November 7, 1937. The two groups voted to make the plan permanent on March 9,



THE PRESENT BAPTIST CHURCH.



THE FEDERATED CHURCH, FORMERLY THE PRESBYTERIAN, 1954.

1938, and the Federated Church outlined its program of activity. Certain dissatisfaction developed, and on February 5, 1939, part of the former members of the Christian Church withdrew from the new organization and resumed services in their former church building.

Reverend James W. Bell, who was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at the time of the unification, continued as pastor of the Federated Church until April 7, 1940. Reverend Kenneth Stuckey is the present pastor.

THE METHODIST CHURCH had its beginning in 1857 when it was listed as one of the seven appointments in the El Paso Circuit, which included El Paso, Panola, Chenoa, Willow Tree School, Bunch Grove School, Potter's School and Secor. Though it was a large circuit, going almost to Roanoke, there was no church edifice, so the first quarterly conference was held in the freight house in Panola on November 6 and 7, 1857. Zadock Hall, pioneer Methodist minister, presided; R. Smithson was the preacher in charge and Franklin R. Tobias the local preacher.

The circuit was organized by electing three men from each appointment to serve as steward, class leader and on missions. The claims of the preachers that year amounted to \$310, and the conference voted to pay the Reverend Smithson \$175 per year "for his table and traveling expenses." Our circuit was in the La Salle district of the Peoria conference.

March 1, 1864 the trustees purchased two lots in El Paso from Mr. and Mrs. George L. Gibson, one at the corner of Second and Chestnut, the other at 240 East Third. Services had been held in the schoolhouse prior to the erection of the frame church on the corner site at a cost of \$7,000. The Reverend Thomas Eddy, D. D., editor of the *Northwestern Christian Advocate*, dedicated the building July 30, 1865. The lot on East Third was sold July 2, 1867 for \$1,400, the price



THE FIRST EL PASO METHODIST CHURCH BUILDING, TORN DOWN IN 1894 TO BUILD THE SECOND, WHICH BURNED MAY 12, 1895.

indicating the first parsonage was located thereon. A second parsonage was purchased December 16, 1881 on the southeast corner of First and Pine, which was sold in June, 1890. The third parsonage was erected at Second and Sherman, the present Mayor Graack home, which he bought in 1944 when the present parsonage was purchased at 125 North Chestnut, the former J. F. Sturgeon residence.

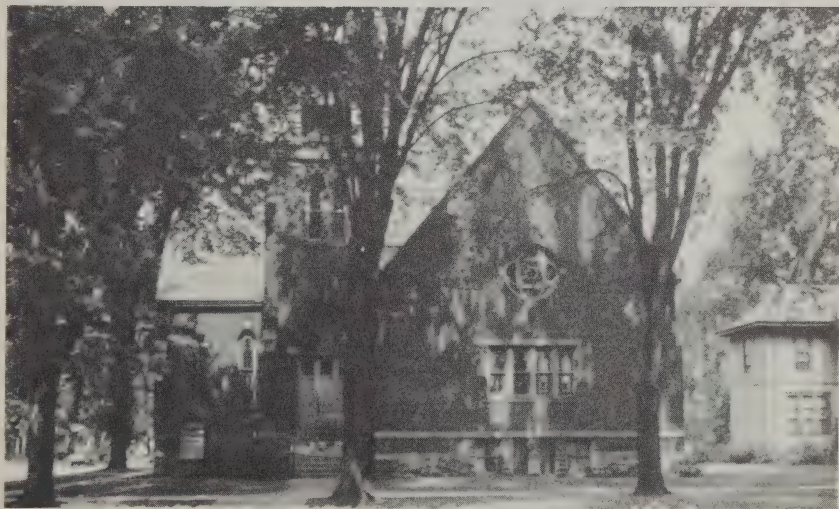
The final service was held in the old frame church July 1, 1894, after which it was taken down and replaced by a much larger brick veneer edifice. E. R. Somers, J. B. Swartz and Taylor Bonar served as the building committee. It was dedicated, free from debt, December 2, 1894 by the Reverend Lewis Curts, D. D. of Chicago.

Fire of unknown origin broke out in the new church on Saturday night, May 12, 1895, and by 1 A. M. Sunday morning the building was a mass of smouldering ruins, with almost none of the furnishings saved. Many of the church members knew nothing of this fire until they arrived from the country for services that morning.

Six days later a new building committee went into action; it was the same except that Mr. George Andrews replaced J. B. Swartz who had died a month earlier. Instead of brick veneer a twelve-inch brick wall was specified, and under the tower and at the corners where the roof weight was carried, this was increased to an eighteen-inch wall. The first church had cost \$10,000 but the thick walls of the new church, otherwise exactly the same as the old one, raised the cost to \$12,000. A church bell purchased in Cincinnati about fifteen years after the first church was built was also in the second church when it burned. Because of fire damage, it was partly recast, but was installed in the third church tower the day before dedication. Reverend Curts returned October 20, 1895 for these services and brought with him a gift of 125 new hymnals to replace the ones lost in the fire.

A pipe organ costing approximately \$2,500 was dedicated April 9, 1916 during the pastorate of Reverend William James Leach. When the church had a redecoration in 1951, a new electric organ with a set of chimes and amplifying system was added, and in 1953 a public address system was installed. The last two were projects of the young peoples' Wesley Class. A cry room for parents with babies was recently added.

Two ministers have left the church pulpit to aid the United States Army in war time; W. J. Leach took a years leave to join the Y. M. C. A.



THE THIRD AND PRESENT METHODIST CHURCH BUILDING IS EXACTLY LIKE THE SECOND, AND STANDS AT SECOND AND CHESTNUT STREETS.

overseas in World War I, serving with the Second Division; Reverend Lloyd G. Strouse left the church in 1943 to enter the army as a chaplain, coming home in 1946 as a major in that corps. Reverend Jack B. North is the present pastor, and has served at this writing seven years, the longest service in the history of the local church.



THE GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, CENTRAL AND THIRD
STREETS, WAS TORN DOWN IN 1946.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH organized in 1859 and since they at once built a small church building it was the first one erected in El Paso. However, the membership did not increase and the organization disbanded. The building passed to the Evangelical United Brethern group in 1872.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERANS were holding community worship in a schoolhouse in and near Kappa in the late 1850's under the leadership of Philip Pfleeger, Sr. Pastors from Bloomington usually did the preaching. About 1860 the group came to El Paso and during the next three years held services at Strathman's or Crawford's Hall, or in the west side schoolhouse. On May 8, 1863 the congregation was organized with fourteen men serving as voting members, naming it St. Paul's.

Joseph Mueller of Peoria built their frame church at the southwest corner of Third and Central in 1864 at a cost of \$1,480. In 1875 the building was remodeled by James McAlden at a cost of \$1,300. A parsonage had been purchased in October, 1871 for \$475, and an addition built in 1882 cost \$700 more. However, this included a schoolroom at the parsonage which provided for thirty-five pupils. The congregation slowly dwindled through death and removal until it was finally without a resident minister. C. G. Schroeder then often supplied the pulpit.

The church fell into disuse and a bad state of repair, so the remaining trustees sold the old church to C. H. McGarvey in 1945, who in turn sold it to Wallace Cullen of Pontiac, who began dismantling it February 4, 1946. Two new homes were built on the site by Gayle Andrews and Wallace Cullen, today owned and occupied by Leo Render and James McWilliams.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH was organized in 1863 as the parish of St. Mary's by the Reverend Patrick Terry of St. Columbia's of Ottawa. His assistant, the Reverend Patrick Toner, had been a curate at Bloomington before going to Ottawa, and he baptized twelve persons in El Paso between September and December of 1863, including Lot Sullivan, Jeremiah Sheehan and Frederick Mossbach.

The Reverend Francis Keenan came to El Paso in November, 1864 and soon thereafter began building a frame church at the corner of Central and West Third, completed in 1865. Wings were added to the building in 1872 which increased its seating capacity to about 500. The church was frescoed and new furnishings added by the Reverend Thomas S. Keating in 1874-80 bringing the total cost to \$4,500. A house belonging to a Mr. McAlden was moved to the site of the present church and converted into a parochial school during Reverend Keating's service, and he taught classes there and in outlying parts of his parish, which included Minonk until 1878.

The Reverend Jeremiah H. Quinlan was pastor of St. Mary's from 1894 to August, 1918, except for a few months in 1904 when the Rever-



THE FIRST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH BUILDING STOOD AT CENTRAL AND THIRD STREETS. IN THIS BUILDING ON MAY 12, 1895 BISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN WAS BAPTIZED.



THE OLD CATHOLIC PARSONAGE ABOUT 1895.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND RECTORY IN 1954.

end Michael C. O'Brien was in charge. Father Quinlan retired in 1918, but it was he who erected the new brick church at the corner of West Third and Elm at a cost of \$13,000. It was dedicated by the Most Reverend J. L. Spaulding, Bishop of the Peoria Diocese, May 22, 1899. The church was later equipped with a pipe organ and a new brick rectory was built next door. Reverend Quinlan pioneered the vacation school movement by organizing and teaching classes. He spent his retirement in El Paso, which he considered his home, living two doors west of the church he had served so long. He died of paralysis April 22, 1925 and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery at Peoria.

Father Aout, Father Sullivan and Father Dollard had terms of service at St. Mary's before the Reverend James J. Kerrins began his pastorate October 12, 1950. Under his direction the basement of the rectory was converted into a parish hall; the church was insulated, the walls tuck-pointed, a new vestibule and entrance constructed, storm sash and new doors installed, all during 1953 at a total cost close to \$20,000. A dinner in 1952 marked the silver anniversary of Father Kerrin's ordination.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH was organized July 3, 1864 by Uncle Jimmy Robeson and Elder John Lindsey with forty charter members. The meeting was held in the schoolhouse. When the group could secure a minister, they held worship services in Strathman's Hall for a year or more; they were then able to erect a small church on Elm Street, the second building south of Second Street in 1865. They built an addition in 1877 which doubled its capacity, but services were held irregularly until 1881, when they were discontinued.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN 1954. FIRST AND ELM STREETS.

In December, 1886 E. J. Lampton reorganized the congregation and held a protracted meeting which added twenty-eight to the thirty-four members who reported at the reorganization session. J. E. Jewett preached for the group the next year, and J. D. Dabney, the first regular pastor, came in August, 1888. During his four years ministry the membership increased by fifty-one; C. S. Medbury became pastor January 1, 1893 and added another hundred members to make the church one of the largest in El Paso.

During the summer of 1894 a new church building was erected at Elm and First which cost \$4,559; the lot had cost \$1,170 and the painting, pews, carpets and other equipment brought the total investment to \$8,035.

The Reverend S. H. Kuntz, who resides in Eureka, is the present pastor.

THE SHILOH METHODIST CHURCH was formed by combining a United Brethern congregation with other groups. The church building was located in the southwest corner of Section 11, four miles north-east of Panola. John Brewer built his home in 1836 in what is now Shuck's Grove, and the Brewer School, located on his farm, was the meeting place for the United Brethern group before the church was built. Two other smaller "classes" also used the school for worship at various times. The three groups combined forces in 1868 and erected a small parsonage two miles east of the school, but continued services in the schoolhouse.

During this same period the Methodists of the area were holding services in the Douglas School two miles north, and in the Hill Grove School, two miles further east.

The United Brethern built the first church in 1875 on the site of the former parsonage at a cost of \$1,920. Abraham Reust, Henry Hall and Thomas Morris were the first trustees, and after many suggestions the name Shiloh was adopted. The Methodists used the church frequently for their services, and about 1897 it came under the jurisdiction of the Methodist Church at the request of the United Brethern, their congregation having diminished through death and removal while the Methodist group had increased.

In 1909 a new frame building with an auditorium thirty-six feet square and an 18 by 24 foot annex, was built on the same site at a cost of \$5,610, including the furnishings. Dedication services were held January 2, 1910.

Except in the early days Shiloh did not have a resident minister, sharing their pastor with Gridley, where he resided. Farms grew bigger, families were smaller and transportation easier, and some families formerly attending Shiloh transferred to churches in neighboring communities. In 1948 the Shiloh congregation began discussions with the El Paso Methodist Church on the possibility of merging; the merger was completed Sunday, May 16, 1948, with the pastors of the two churches, the Reverend K. A. Lipp and Jack B. North participating in the service. The Shiloh building was sold at auction to the Davis Bros. of Minonk on April 20, 1950, for \$625; they dismantled it and used the lumber elsewhere.

THE EMANUEL EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHERN congregation was organized in early 1872, from among the English-speaking Evangelicals of the community, and they purchased the former Congregational church building on March 19 that year for \$1,500. It was the first church building erected in El Paso, and was located on Second Street



EMANUEL EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHERN CHURCH, WEST SECOND STREET.

north of Jefferson Park. The parsonage adjoining the church on the west was built in 1876 at a cost of \$600 when the Reverend C. W. Davis was pastor. Reverend D. J. Klopp was pastor in 1901 when it was extensively remodeled.

The present Emanuel Evangelical United Brethern church was built of brick on the same site in 1927 during the pastorate of Reverend S. C. Boswell. The Fitchen Company of Washburn were the contractors and the building committee included the pastor, John G. Crusius, Charles McCauley, J. W. Pfleeger, George Cable, Cecil D. Tarman and Miss Anna Turner. The building seats 250 persons and cost \$17,200. It was dedicated by Bishop M. T. Maze on January 15, 1928. Jacob F. Crusius recently donated an electric organ to the church.

Reverend Harvey D. Gabel has been pastor since 1949, and he also was pastor here from 1924 to 1927. The congregation completely redecored the sanctuary in 1953.

THE ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH had a congregation in El Paso long before their church was built. Sometime in 1860 the Reverend Samuel Chase, D. D., an Episcopal clergyman, stopped in El Paso between trains, and during his brief visit baptized a baby of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hazlett who lived in or near the old depot. One source says this occurred in 1856, and this may be correct, since the William Ostler diary states that Ben Hazlett ran El Paso's first restaurant in 1855, which would make him El Paso's first resident. A child of William M. Jenkins was baptized in the Episcopal faith in August, 1861, and in July, 1865 the Reverend Chamberlayn held Episcopal services in the Presbyterian church building as he was returning from Civil War service.

The Reverend William Steele conducted services here from 1867 to 1869 on a more or less regular schedule, and for the next five years Episcopal clergymen from Bloomington and other places held occasional services, using the McKinley school or the Christian church building. The Reverend Steele returned in 1884 and rooms over the Thomas Doyle store were rented for church services held every two weeks during most of the period.

In December, 1895, the congregation purchased a lot of L. S. Calkins at the southwest corner of First and Cherry as a site for their new church building. Of frame construction, it cost \$3,000 and was dedicated October 29, 1896 by the Right Reverend W. E. McLaren, Bishop of the Chicago Diocese. All services were held in the new building thereafter, including the Sunday School, organized in 1873 by Mrs. John Hoagland, perhaps the most active department of the church.

Over the years the membership diminished in numbers and services were not regularly held. In 1947 members of the St. Mathews Episcopal Church of Bloomington, under the leadership of E. V. Gunn, who attended St. Andrew's Sunday School as a boy, began a program of repair and redecoration.



ST. ANDREW'S E PISCOPAL CHURCH, FIRST AND CHERRY STREETS.

Dr. Marian Miller, an art teacher at Illinois State Normal University made eleven panels for the reredos, painted in brilliant color on gold leaf, and it is estimated it would cost \$3,000 to replace them. The work in the church was entirely by volunteer labor on evenings and holidays. The church was rededicated on a Sunday in June, 1952 by the Most Reverend Wallace Conkling, Bishop of Chicago, and today the Reverend Wayne Duggleby of Pontiac is the priest in charge.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS held services in various homes in the community on Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings for a few years in the 1880's and 1890's. However, their numbers were small and no church was organized or built.

THE GOSPEL TABERNACLE congregation was organized in 1935 and in the following spring built their frame church on a lot on South Elm Street. Most of the work was done by members. The Reverend Mr. Rediger of Morton dedicated the church in June, 1936, assisted by the Reverend and Mrs. George Ade who had been leaders in the organiza-

tion. There were about forty charter members, but many have moved away and services have not been regularly held for the past three years.

THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE was organized June 30, 1935 by the Reverend Bertha Humble, a state missionary organizer. Services during that year were held in St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran building, Mrs. Raymond Peters being the first pastor. In 1940 their new church was completed at West Main and Walnut. It is of frame construction, covered with asbestos shingles. C. W. Toler, George Griffith and Samuel Walters were the first trustees. In 1946 the Reverend Russell Hayse and his wife went from this church to South Africa as missionaries, their second son being born there. They have been in the United States for a year, but are returning to Africa to resume their teaching as missionaries. The present pastor is the Reverend W. M. Christian.

THE TRINITY LUTHERN CHURCH is El Paso's newest, permission being granted to conduct services under the Missouri Synod in May, 1947. The congregation organized December 7, 1947 with thirty-five communicant members and a total membership of fifty-eight. The Reverend Walter E. Lichtsinn of Wenona and various students from Concordia Seminary conducted the services the first year, using the building of the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church with Sunday School rooms over the Woodford County National Bank.

The Reverend Carl W. Bruggemann of Gresham, Nebraska was called in February, 1948, and was installed as pastor the following May. In July, 1950 the congregation purchased a half block site on West Third just off Route 51. A bond issue of \$30,000 supplied funds and the men



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WEST THIRD STREET.

of the congregation built a parish hall on the south half of their new property. It contained a 30 by 60 foot auditorium, a twelve-foot stage, two classrooms, rest rooms and a fine kitchen. The men donated over 7,000 man hours of labor, and with the aid of one part-time carpenter and professional workmen for the masonry, wiring and heating, the hall was completed for use in September, 1951.

Encouraged by their success in building the parish hall, they erected a church building adjoining on the west with a modern-fold door connecting the two for the accomodation of large gatherings. The church is 32 by 80 feet with an additional 14 by 32 choir loft and robing room. The church will seat a total of 282. Henry Wessel was chairman of the building committee which included Arnold Gottel, Harry Punke, Otto Remmert, Walter Wessel, T. W. Wollenschlager and Louis F. Rippel.

The church was dedicated December 7, 1952 with the Reverend Alvin Mueller of Decatur as speaker. An electric organ was also dedicated later to the memory of Mrs. C. W. Bruggemann, wife of the pastor, and Mrs. Henry Wessel, wife of the building chairman, who were killed in an automobile accident May 14, 1952.

Reverend Bruggemann resigned in 1953 to accept a church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the Reverend Edward Schade was installed as pastor on November 7, 1953.

Each of the churches carries on programs through groups devoted to the special interests of men, women and youth, varying their activities to meet the need for information, worship and service.

A COUNCIL OF CHURCH WOMEN was organized in the fall of 1942 under the leadership of Mrs. Frank M. Rice who became its first president. This group sponsors the annual World Day of Prayer service on the first Friday of Lent, and World Community Day the first Friday in November.

A union Daily Vacation Bible School has been held for a number of years, as well as similar schools sponsored by the Lutheran and Catholic churches.

THE COMMUNITY NATIVITY SCENE was sponsored by the El Paso Chamber of Commerce in 1949, with Joe Pavesich the chairman of the committee which accepted donations for the project. Large figures of the Christ Child, Joseph, Mary, the three Wise Men and a shepherd with five sheep were originally displayed in a small stable built on the Illinois Central lawn and dedicated December 5, 1949. Additional funds were contributed in 1950 and were used to purchase an ox and ass, a camel and a camel boy, a kneeling shepherd and two angels. The entire scene is lighted by flood lights and has been displayed annually in December. The figurines are valued at more than \$3,000 and are insured.

CHAPTER 12.

Schools and Library

The lazy little laggard who entertained the idea of not having to go to school when he moved with his pioneer parents into the new settlements around El Paso was due for a rude awakening. No sooner had the early patriarchs found shelter for the bed and board of their families than they brought out the readers, 'riters and 'rithmetics, and children between the ages of five and twenty-one were expected to attend school off and on, whether or not they were so inclined. The story of the schools follows much the same pattern in all of the early settlements: first, the home; then the organization of a school district and the building of a schoolhouse.

One might generalize by saying that it was the teacher that was of first importance. It was someone in the settlement who often took on the labors in his or her own home, or it sometimes was a wandering pedigogical peddler who tarried for a while, to be replaced as easily as he was engaged by someone who sold his wares for less. Those early teachers took up their abode in the settlements where they chanced to be, and they became an integral part of the community life. The first laws of child psychology were enforced by the hickory stick or the dunce's corner, and how long a teacher stayed was often determined by how well he was able to hold his own with a school full to overflowing with ruffians of the first order. It is noteworthy, indeed, that these pioneers in the field of education were able to keep alive the spark of learning without the material accouterments which seem so necessary in our modern conception of educational advancement.

The earliest school mentioned is one taught in Greene Township's area in 1840 by Mr. William Armstrong. It was a log cabin, located on Section 28, near Gabetown. According to a statistical report prepared by County Superintendent of Schools, Professor J. E. Lamb, in 1878, there were then in the township about 348 children of school age of whom about 290 were in school. Palestine also had a school before it became a township; Mrs. Clement Oatman taught this first school in her own home southwest of Secor's site, prior to the erection of the first schoolhouse in 1844. That new school was a small log hut with a stick and mud chimney. The early records of the school were destroyed in the fire which burned the large \$30,000 brick hotel in Secor.

This hotel, which according to contemporary description rivaled Chicago's finest, had been built to attract the county seat to Secor. The first school in Secor itself was taught by William Hendron in 1857. The 1878 record showed about 956 pupils and seven school districts in Palestine Township.

Reverend Abner Peeler taught the first school in Kansas Township in 1850, located near the cabin of Zachariah Brown. The township had grown to three districts with 270 pupils by 1878. The first school in Kappa was conducted in Caleb Horn's home in 1854 by Mrs. Ann Dewey, a sister-in-law of Admiral George Dewey's grandfather. Teachers who followed her included Mrs. Jane Dixon, Henry Tracy and Mrs. Louise Tucker. Kappa's school district was organized in 1855, the schoolhouse being the typical log cabin type with seats made by driving sticks for legs into planks, with boards braced against the walls for desks for the older children. Matilda Hassom was Kappa District School's first teacher, and opened the 1856 term in the new log schoolhouse. In 1864 a new building was erected and the old one moved two miles west to the Boyd farm.

Jane Nesmith was the first teacher in the schoolhouse built in Panola village in 1857. It cost \$600 and was paid for by subscriptions which were later refunded to the donors. Panola Township grew by leaps and bounds and boasted five schools in 1864, eight in 1865, and ten in 1878. These districts were laid out and the schoolhouses built as the population increases demanded. It was not unusual for families in the early days to have ten and twelve children. Mrs. Ida C. Blackmore says there were so many children (many of them Blackmores and Punks) going to the old Pauley School that they had to sit three and four in the old double seats.

Many amusing stories are told about these early rural settlement schools, one being about the neighborhood demand for a change in location of the schoolhouse to a point nearer the center of population. When the settler for whom the school was named refused to consent to its removal from his land, it was mysteriously spirited away in the dark of the moon to a remote corner of his farm, but more easily accessible to his neighbor's children.

The districts were for the most part named for the early settler who gave the land for the school. The ten districts in Panola township in 1878 were as follows: Panola, Hilsabeck, Shaw, Pauley, De Vries, McOmber, Hodgson, Bassett, Roth and Punke. Nine of these still remained to be absorbed into the El Paso Unit School District in 1949. The report of 1878 showed 490 pupils in these ten districts. Mrs. Lloyd Taylor of Panola has in her possession the old school schedules, giving lists and ages of children and the names of teachers, dating from October 1, 1864. Mrs. Della Stretch is no doubt the earliest of these teachers still living. She began teaching in the Thorpe School in 1876 at the age of sixteen.

Teachers in the early days were seldom hired for more than a month at a time and the wages varied according to the number of pupils, with male teachers usually receiving somewhat more than the ladies. Spirited vote was always taken over the matter of the length of the summer and winter terms. The older pupils went for a four to five month winter term, often until they were eighteen or older. The youngsters went for the summer session. This would seem to be a rather logical solution to the economic demands of the day, but would also call for a change of teaching tactics varying with the seasons, accounting in part perhaps for the rapid teacher "turnover."

The first school in the town of El Paso was in a private home on the site of the Dwight Roth residence at First and Pine Streets in late 1856. Twenty pupils, of whom Jennie Fishburn, later to become an early educator was one, were taught by Mrs. Cooper, an aunt of E. Handley King. In 1857 the old east side school was built. This was a one-room building at first, and was taught by Henry H. Hewitt. Very soon conditions became so crowded that Jennie Fishburn volunteered to help at the school and by 1861 she was regularly employed at \$10 per month. Rooms were added when the need arose, and also small buildings on the present Miss Olive Engel and Desmond properties were erected to take care of the swelling school population.

"Pay" schools also supplemented the early public schools and mention is made in the *El Paso True Patriot* of September 9, 1865 of Mrs. Packard's Select School. In the November 8 issue of that same year there appeared this advertisement for the school:

I would respectfully inform the citizens of El Paso and vicinity that the increasing numbers and interest of this school has made it necessary to engage an assistant and I have been fortunate in securing the services of Miss Georgia Robinson from the corps of teachers from the popular institution for young ladies, Miss Ward's Seminary of Bridgeport, Conn., and can now offer all the advantages of a thorough academical course of education and assure my patrons that no pains will be spared in the formation of character in scholars put under my care. Terms of tuition: Primary, \$4.00; Common English branches, \$5.00; Higher English branches, \$6.00. English composition, rudimental and practical vocal music and penmanship will receive special attention. Extra charges will be made for Greek, Latin, French, Drawing, Painting, piano and guitar instruction. Pupils from abroad may readily obtain board with home privileges. (signed) Mrs. Dr. Packard, Principal.

Another ad for a "select" school appeared in the March 18, 1869 issue of the *El Paso Journal*. M. M. Patton and E. M. Carlton, teachers in the west side public school proposed to open a select school on the kindergarten principle during the months of July and August at the rate of \$2.50 per pupil. They pointed out that they did not propose to open the school unless sufficient interest was shown. September 12, 1900, Mrs. Jennie Fishburn Young announced in an ad, the opening of her school and said that young ladies from outside could be accommodated with "rooms and boarding" in her home. Her school had been in operation for some years at that date and was continued until 1912 or after.

Two parochial schools were in existence in the 1870's: St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran School and a Catholic School conducted by the Dominican Sisters through a branch of St. Clara's Academy of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. The Lutheran school had a capacity for about thirty-five pupils and in 1889 the Catholic school had about forty pupils. They were discontinued after a few years.

El Paso's school district at first included the entire village and about all of the north half of El Paso Township. When the fine three-



EAST SIDE SCHOOL IN 1896 (THE MCKINLEY SCHOOL).

story, brick "east side" building was erected in 1869 the first recorded school "fight" ensued. There had been increasing rivalry between east and west side businessmen and the erection of the new school on Gibson's east side was more than founding father Wathen and his satellites could take. So the "west-siders" headed by James H. Wathen and David Grafft succeeded in dividing the district into two parts and a new school district was formed. This division of a small town into two rival school districts was a phenomenon so rare in school history that El Paso for many years was more or less the object of study in educational circles and was cited as the example of what a town should not do.

After the Wathenites succeeded in withdrawing from the original district they erected a wooden structure which served as the west side school until it was replaced in 1897 on the same location, by the brick building which is now used for the elementary grades under the name of the Jefferson Park School. The two schools existed in this state of rivalry, sometimes friendly, but often otherwise, with the two school boards, two corps of teachers, two curriculae, two sets of textbooks,



EL PASO TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, JUST COMPLETED, 1921.

until 1944. On May 22 of that year the trustees of the grade schools approved the petition to consolidate, which had been gained by a popular and lively election. The two districts were dissolved and one combined grade school district was created. In time, differences were resolved and old boundary lines were erased as the progress gained by unity became evident.

Under the old two-district system each school operated a two-year high school until 1892. Mrs. Julia Toussieng was the first graduate in the class of 1874. Another El Paso woman to enjoy a "first" in education was Mrs. A. O. Shur who held the distinction of being the first woman to graduate from the Illinois Wesleyan University in 1872, after she had been married nine years. In 1892 the four-year course was introduced into the high schools and the class of 1893 boasted twelve graduates, including those from the classes of 1890 and 1891 who stayed on to take the advanced course. After the early 1900's the commencement exercises of the two schools were held jointly in the Grand Opera House. The east side school was named the McKinley School shortly after that president was shot on September 6, 1901.

In 1916 the El Paso Township High School District #375, combining the high schools of the two city districts and taking in some non-high school rural areas, was organized, and a class of twenty-five in 1916



THE OLD WEST SIDE SCHOOL

was the first to graduate under it. Classes were conducted in the two school buildings and in downtown office buildings. After first being defeated, a successful vote was taken on May 29, 1919 providing a bond issue for the purpose of purchasing part of the fairground and the erection of a new township high school building. The edifice which was completed in 1921 was one of the finest in the state at that time and for many years was adequate for the physical, educational and cultural advancement of the more or less static school population. The first class to graduate from the new building numbered twenty-nine; the class of 1953 totaled fifty-five.

Today with the state's stress on vocational and physical education and the rapid increases in school population, the building is becoming overcrowded and inadequate to meet the demands of current educational needs. The grade schools, likewise, are confronted with complexities which must be resolved soon in order to keep the line of El Paso's educational progress moving ever upward. In 1949 districts in the El Paso area were, by popular demand, consolidated into one school unit. The district houses, with the exception of Secor School and the Spring Hill rural school which still operate grades one through six, were closed. Children from all of the outlying areas are transported by nine buses into the three school centers, the bulk coming into El Paso. Those who are transported daily include seventh and eighth graders and high school students from the entire area and all grade school children from the closed rural schools. When such consolidation and concentration of school population was effected, it foreshadowed the necessity of adequate housing and educational facilities.

The early schools were not without their amusing, as well as serious, anecdotes. The story is told of the girl who lost her gold pen. Josiah Woods of Washington, Illinois, who was principal, demanded that there be a search. Three girls, Fannie Sloat, Fannie Parks and Fannie Cazelot were in the school at that time and when the principal

started a general search the three Fannies refused to submit to frisking indignities. The girl who thought she had lost her pen found it at home; parents were irate at such high-handed methods, the principal resigned and Miss Jennie Fishburn finished the term as principal.

Another story appeared in the *Minonk Journal* of October 21, 1882 under the head "Asserts his Authority" in which Mr. Lucius Fuller of El Paso was praised for taking hold of a bad situation in the Cruger School where children had been running things to suit themselves. Apparently Mr. Fuller received objections from the parents of the culprits, but was upheld by the board of directors. Another incident described in the March 18, 1882 issue of the *Minonk Journal* told of the experience of a "prominent and experienced teacher by the name of Oliver P. Burger" in the Secor School who was arrested by the parents of a boy who disobeyed Mr. Burger. When the boy ran from the building he was later punished by the teacher. The pedagogue was acquitted by the justice of the peace and the article in conclusion editorialized as follows: "If this father had given his son a good sound whipping when he went home, instead of rushing off to the justice of the peace, he would have shown better judgment. When parents want worthless, ignorant children they uphold them in all their little troubles with their teachers. The citizens of Secor fully endorse Mr. Burger and believe he acted properly in the matter."

Absence from school in the old days was so prevalent as to call forth appeals through the local papers urging parents to send children more regularly. One such letter to the editor stated very bluntly: "The reason (for irregular attendance) is that such persons look to the money side of life and whenever a dollar can be earned by one of their children, he is called from school and put to work, though the mental loss



JEFFERSON PARK GRADE SCHOOL, 1954.

sustained is beyond the powers of numbers to express. The one thing needful among the people of this country is a general waking up to the grand importance of our work in education." The letter was signed by G. W. Warner.

Church and school interest went hand in hand in pioneer times. Many of the early churches were organized and held their first services in some of the rural schoolhouses. The concern of the church for education was evidenced by a meeting called for November 13, 1865 in the Presbyterian Church of El Paso "for the purpose of considering the general interest of education in this place; the providing of academic and graded schools and perfecting the general cause of education." This meeting was represented by the pastors of the Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Christian and Congregational Churches.

Regret was expressed by the west side school teachers that so few of the parents, citizens and friends attended the opening of a new school year. The new building was just about ready for occupancy and special opening exercises had been prepared in anticipation of the event. According to the report, only Reverend Mr. Williamson, Mr. A. O. Shur and Dr. Adams attended.

But with the years parent and citizen interest grew and with it came active participation in Mother's Clubs, Home and School Societies and the National and State Associations of Parents and Teachers. Through these various organizations parents and other citizens have become acquainted with new educational trends and with local school needs. A pre-school group of mothers studies the problems of their offsprings and finds considerable comfort in the fact that child behavior follows a pretty well-defined pattern, the study of which helps to make for better adjusted children. Curricular advancements, such as



McKINLEY GRADE SCHOOL, 1954.

audio-visual aids, reading and speech correction, art and music instruction and vocational guidance are presented in P. T. A. meetings for the education of parents. The material well-being of the child is studied through surveys of hot lunch programs, building capacities and health instruction. In all of these organizational activities of parents and teachers one main objective is sought: the well-being of the child. In many ways the influence of parents and other citizens has been felt in the forward movement of El Paso schools.

Because they are constantly growing, schools are never free from "growing pains." The rapidity with which changes from the small self-sufficient and self-centered districts were made into large centralized units, brought an agony of growing pains such as had never before been experienced. In the early days whenever a new center of population sprang up, a new school district was organized and a new school-house built. Materials and labor were cheap and educational demands simple. Today school populations have reached a new high. Old districts have been eradicated and children from the many abandoned districts have been brought into a few focal centers before adequate facilities for housing or instruction could be provided. What is true in El Paso is true throughout the country. One by one the communities are having to meet the situation. A vote, taken in the El Paso Unit on November 28, 1953, for a school building program to provide what was deemed necessary by a survey committee consisting of twenty-eight members selected by representative civic groups who studied the problem for a year, was lost by 175 votes. This cannot be interpreted as a permanent shelving of the issue so long as the problems remain unsettled.

The nation-wide shortage of teachers, the higher educational demands, the improved means of transportation, and the increase in school population have changed the educational outlook all over the land. The problems are challenging and require the best judgments of everyone working together in a spirit of unity with only one objective in mind—how best can adequate school housing and operation be provided at the least cost for the greatest good of the children, in a land whose strength lies in the free public education of its youth?

In a world dominated by fear, propaganda and force the enlightenment of the mind through security, truth and fair play are weapons best provided by the homes, the churches and the schools. Schools are the civic responsibility of everyone who enjoys citizenship. The founding fathers by their immediate establishment of schools were first to recognize this responsibility and down through the years the traditional torch has been passed into our hands. Those who write the El Paso Story for our second century will tell what we do with it.

THE EL PASO PUBLIC LIBRARY. Male inhabitants of El Paso, through the years, have found much cause for mirth over the motto of one female organization: "The World is for Woman Also." But in turn-

ing back the pages of history one sees that women have played an important part in the cultural advancement of this community. In an admittedly masculine era the motto was a daring one and for women to take part in the active improvement of their world was nothing short of revolution. Thus, the establishing of a library was not only daring, it was an enterprise that called for the unceasing and untiring efforts of a group of women who met for the first time, according to an old minute book, on Saturday afternoon, February 8, 1873, at the home of Mrs. W. G. Randall, the wife of an attorney. "On account of the severity of the weather, few were present, and an informal meeting was held which adjourned to meet at Mrs. Rouse's the following Thursday, February 13th."

After a succession of meetings the Ladies' Library Association was formed and a committee appointed to confer with the shareholders of an "old library association" to procure, if possible, a transfer of the remaining books "to this association." According to the minutes there was some objection, but apparently the other association ceased to exist. Further sessions, frequently as often as twice each week, were held during those winter months of 1873 until finally a constitution was drawn up and shares in sufficient numbers were sold at three dollars each, by house to house canvas, and the following officers elected: President, Mrs. "Dr." Stockwell; Vice-president, Mrs. J. J. Cassell; Secretary, Mrs. "Dr." O'Brien; Treasurer, Mrs. W. R. Bigham; Librarian, Mrs. S. H. Worthington; Assistant Librarian, Mrs. A. O. Shur.

The services of the librarian, an officer of the association, were at first to be free, and although elected for one year often served for only about a three-months' period. The library room, selected from three which were offered free of charge, was in the basement of the new Eagle Block Building, the site of the present El Paso National Bank, and was open on Saturday afternoons from two until five, and from seven until nine Saturday evenings. Funds were augmented from time to time by the proceeds from "lecture courses", "New England Suppers", "Strawberry Festivals" and donations from other associations such as the Woman's Culture Club. Careful consideration for the moral, as well as the cultural, improvement of readers was used in the selection of books and by 1894 the association was in possession of about two thousand. At the quarterly meeting held February 1, 1894, the matter of insurance on the books was discussed and at the May 17th meeting it was voted to carry insurance for one year. On July 19 of that year the great fire wiped out the library along with most other buildings in that block, but by 1896 the insurance had aided the ladies to reestablish their library, then in possession of some five hundred new books.

In 1901 they moved into the room now occupied by Mrs. Goldie Blackmore's Beauty Shop. Prior to the arrival of Dr. C. O. Patton's dental equipment the ladies gave a reception in the rooms which he still occupies, at which ice cream and cakes were sold, netting them

fifteen dollars. During that same year a move was made to circulate a statement among the shareholders, asking their consent to turn the library into the city's care. In 1902 Mr. Frank B. Stitt was requested to confer with Mayor J. I. Kerr concerning the transfer of the library into a city public library. On June 7, 1902, Mr. Stitt reported that "our Mayor will not listen to the ladies' petition requesting the city to accept the library. Consequently, the ladies discussed ways and means of raising money." That same wearisome and ever worrisome task! At the annual meeting on May 21, 1904, however, it was voted to donate the property of the Ladies' Library Association to the city as soon as it was ready to accept it.

The *El Paso Journal* of April 8, 1905 contained editorial comment on the proposed acceptance of a Carnegie gift for a library building and printed several letters from former El Pasoans who then lived in cities that had received Carnegie gifts. Rumors had been rampant in town that Mr. Andrew Carnegie held strings to his gifts by reserving the right to claim the site on which the library was built, as well as the building which his contribution to the community involved. These letters refuted the rumors and showed that the only thing Mr. Carnegie demanded was that the buildings which he donated must be put to library use and that the community had to agree to a tax levy to assure the maintenance of a public library in the building which he donated for that purpose. In the April 3, 1905 session of the city council, Mayor S. M. Ferrell and Aldermen Shreve, Adams, Hankey, Kyser, Render and Nethercott resolved that the "City Council recommend to the incoming council that a levy of two mills be made on all property of the city to support a free public library." There was less and less objection as citizens had time to discuss and think over the question. The new council, under Mayor Peter Donner, unanimously voted to establish a public library.

The site selected was on the south side of Jefferson Park, and the grey stone structure which followed the lines of a medieval castle was dedicated in 1906. Today the library has over 8,000 volumes and is open each afternoon except Thursday and Sunday, plus two evenings each week. In 1953 it had an average monthly circulation of 1,296 books and magazines and operated on approximately \$3,000 per year. It serves not only those living within the city limits, who enjoy the free use of it, but also a far-reaching rural area to whom full privileges are extended for the membership fee of only one dollar per year.

Librarians who served for many faithful years include Mrs. S. H. Worthington, Mrs. S. T. Curtiss, Mrs. W. G. Johnson, Miss Sarah Gough, Mrs. Carrie Tucker, Miss Hortense Ferrell, Miss Katharine Jenkins and many others. The present library board consists of the following: Ralph A. Burster, President; Mrs. Tresa Fitzgerald, Vice President; Miss Katharine Jenkins, Secretary; Mesdames James A.

Smith; Horace H. Baker; Robert Snyder; Messrs. Lee Schertz; Cassell C. Kingdon and H. E. Reckling. Mrs. Ralph A. Burster has been librarian since 1944 and Mrs. Lloyd Pfister is her regular assistant.

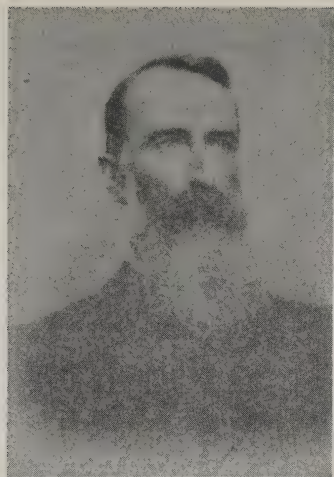
CHAPTER 13.

Our Professional People

The progress achieved in the professions during the last century in our area is worthy of note. After the settlers became more numerous, the doctors were the first professional people to come. Where our first and second physicians had resided earlier is not related, but in 1837 Dr. William C. Anthony, "a regular educated physician," came to Bowling Green. About the same time Dr. Albert Reynolds, Sr., also settled in Bowling Green. These and other early doctors found it difficult to establish their practice because many home practitioners gave their services for nothing, and there were pioneers who had imbibed the doctrine of Dr. Samuel Thomson of Massachusetts, and looked with much suspicion and prejudice upon the "old school" or "calomel" doctors.

Dr. Thomson taught that "minerals were derived from the depths of the earth, being ponderous and tending earthward; their use would drag the patient down and into the grave, but vegetable medicines would raise the body up to life and health, inasmuch as it is the nature of vegetables to spring from the ground and tend upward." Those who gave calomel and let blood as effective in reducing fever, and those who drew blisters were regarded with some distrust and aversion. Dr. Albert Reynolds, Jr., pioneered the way against Thomsonianism, beginning his campaign in 1848. In 1854 Dr. Reynolds built an office and settled in Kappa. In June, 1856, Dr. Samuel L. Kerr started to practice in Kappa, but remained there only one year, moving to El Paso to become its first physician.

Dr. Kerr was a native of Pennsylvania who studied medicine and graduated from a medical school in Ohio. In 1850 he practiced near Fort Wayne, Indiana, but having to ride long distances, the lack of sufficient rest made it necessary for him to retire for two years. Afterward he came to Illinois where he found the settlers much in need of his services. He relates that much of his sleep was on horseback while riding over the prairies before roads were in this area. His riding whip slipping from his hand would awaken him, and one night he dismounted seven times to recover his whip. He describes these rides "across sloughs, muddy and musty, when sometimes for a hundred yards my horse would go knee deep in water and mud. The ponds and



DR. SAMUEL L. KERR. VILLAGE OF EL PASO'S FIRST PHYSICIAN, COMING FROM KAPPA IN 1857. HE WAS MAYOR OF EL PASO IN 1886. HE DIED HERE JANUARY 4, 1897.

sloughs were full of water all summer. There were green-heads and mosquitoes by the millions. In the autumn when the dried grasses were fired, it was a beautiful sight at night to see them converted into flame."

Comment was often made about Dr. Kerr's splendid stature and the fact that he always carried a fine riding whip. Even a fine whip was not much equipment for a doctor who had to ride horseback in all kinds of weather "to minister to the sick and ailing. It was necessary to be one's own pharmacist, to compound one's own pills and tinctures, and to meet every emergency alone and unaided."

In 1859 Dr. Kerr bought a small house at First and Cherry Streets just east of St. Andrew's church for \$350 and lived there while building a new home, now the remodeled Wilkey Nursing Home at Grant and First. Years later he moved to a home south of Franklin Square, now the Parkside Apartments. At both of these later residences he raised fruits and grapes of many varieties as a hobby. He died on January 4, 1897 after forty years of practice and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, which he helped establish.

Three of our earliest doctors, Stockwell, Lamme and Cole, were physicians in the Civil War. Together with the soldiers, they returned with praise for the care and comfort given by Clara Barton and the other volunteer nurses, for it was not until 1872 that the first trained nurses were graduated.

One outgrowth of the Civil War was the decision in 1870 to organize a Woodford County Medical Society, which stipulated: "In this association no one is admitted to membership except those who have received

a diploma from some medical institution authorized to confer degrees." The notable thing about the forming of this organization was that it was seven years before the State of Illinois required doctors to have a state license.

During this era physicians were often referred to as homeopathic, allopathic or eclectic. The homeopathic idea was to use minute doses to produce symptoms similar to those experienced by the patient. The principle was recited that "like cures like" so frostbite was rubbed with snow and burns were treated with heated oil. Allopathic doctors used remedial measures to produce symptoms the opposite of the original. The eclectic physician selected the mode of treatment he considered expedient from all the theories or from any one theory.

A sample medical card carried in *The El Paso True Patriot* for November 25, 1865, reads as follows:

Dr. R. B. Roberts would respectfully inform the citizens of El Paso and vicinity that his health is so improved that he is able to attend professional calls in the country as well as in town. To such calls he will promptly attend, from rich or from poor, by day or by night. Strictly eclectic in practice, he uses no calomel or other poisons. Twenty years of practice."

In the same issue appeared an item on Dr. J. M. Perry, purportedly written by a friend:

Another physician, Dr. J. M. Perry from Pontiac, has taken up residence in El Paso. The Doctor doesn't blow his own horn much, preferring acquisition of popularity by the success of his practice. But it is said he has few equals and fewer superiors. Thirty years practice it is believed has made him complete master of most diseases incident to this climate. He certainly has the appearance of possessing one prominent characteristic of a successful physician—good judgment.

When the roads were laid out, the mode of travel gradually improved until in 1892 the El Paso newspaper announced that Dr. Frank Stubblefield had purchased a regular physician's cab having panels inset with glass. In 1904 Dr. R. E. Gordon purchased a two-cylinder Oldsmobile, and some time later Dr. Frank H. Henderson purchased an automobile. But two cylinders could not always pull out of the deep Illinois mud, and when the roads were newly crowned or freshly oiled it was not a surprise to slide off into the ditch, making it necessary to have cab and horses for several years to supplement the car.

Before the present system of highways existed, no matter how great the emergency, patients could reach the hospital only by train. Today the injured or critically ill can receive aid in a matter of minutes, and can be whisked to the hospital in ambulances fitted with oxygen and other sources of treatment for use en route.

DENTISTS.

P. A. FERBRACHE, El Paso's earliest dentist of record, was a native of Ohio who practiced here several years. His notice of dental practice appears in *The El Paso True Patriot* of November 25, 1865.

L. G. ROBERTS and his son also had an announcement of their dental office in the same issue.

MARK H. PATTEN, a native of Ohio, came to El Paso in 1872 and opened a dental office. His home from July, 1879 to November, 1881 was the house recently moved from its location just south of the St. Andrew's Episcopal church.

JOHN A SCHOFIELD, a native of Pennsylvania, studied at the Cincinnati Dental College and practiced for four years with S. W. Wood, dentist in Wilmington, Ohio. He began his El Paso practice in 1879 which continued for fifty years.

JAMES M. FISHBURN, son of pioneer Jacob Fishburn, studied dentistry under Dr. Mark H. Patten and was granted a diploma after taking the State Board's examination. He practiced over thirty years in El Paso.

CHARLES O. PATTON was born northwest of El Paso. He graduated from the East Side High School in 1890, and in 1896 from the Chicago Dental College. Beginning his El Paso practice in 1896, his record continues, longest in El Paso's history.

WILL THORPE, local boy, now of Redlands, California, practiced here briefly in 1907-8.

MARIAN WARNER was a dentist in Secor in 1905.

CLAUDE NICHOLS purchased the Will Thorpe dental office and practiced dentistry for several years before becoming associated with the Belt Automobile Indemnity Association.

A. CARLETON KING, a native of LeRoy, passed the state examination in 1900 but did not finish his dental schooling until 1901. Dr. King had a dental office in El Paso from 1916 until 1952.

GORDON D. HEIPLE, a graduate of the Illinois Dental School and a post-graduate of Northwestern Dental School in 1942, opened his office in El Paso in 1939 at 35 West Front Street. He lives at 336 East First.

VERNON HAAS is a graduate of El Paso Township High School and the University of Illinois Dental College in 1942. He began his practice in Lexington in 1946 and opened a Bloomington office in 1949. He purchased Dr. A. C. King's practice in El Paso in 1952 and has conducted that office on Tuesdays and Thursdays since then at 10 North Central Street.

DOCTORS, SURGEONS, OSTEOPATHS AND CHIROPRACTORS.

WILLIAM C. ANTHONY, "a regular educated physician," practiced in Bowling Green in 1837 but left soon after 1841.

ALBERT REYNOLDS, SR., located in Bowling Green in 1838 and in Kappa in 1854. He was a resident of Piketon, Ohio in 1827.

ALBERT REYNOLDS, JR., graduated from Woodward College, Ohio, and from the Rush Medical College in 1848. He died in El Paso in 1882.

SAMUEL L. KERR took his medical course at Carrollton, Ohio and moved to Kappa in June, 1856 from a location near Fort Wayne, Indiana. He came to El Paso the following year.

PETER L. TRIBBEY, physician and surgeon, came from Indiana to Secor in 1859.

ALANSON V. STOCKWELL, homeopathic physician, came from Vermont to El Paso in 1859. He served as a surgeon in the Civil War.

DANIEL LEWIS, physician came to El Paso in 1860. He lived north of the Baptist parsonage, finally moving to Waukegan.

L. B. MARTIN, listed as a botanic physician, practiced in El Paso in the 1860's. His office was in the West Front Street business block.

D. D. ROSS was a native of Indiana and came to Secor in 1865.

R. B. ROBERTS, eclectic physician was practicing in El Paso in 1865.

J. M. PERRY came here from Pontiac in 1865 and had offices two doors east of *The El Paso Journal* office.

A. S. STONEBRAKER, physician and surgeon, carried his professional card in the *El Paso True Patriot* on November 25, 1865.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, a native of Ohio was graduated in 1847 from the Willoughby, Ohio Medical School. He practiced in Van Wert, Ohio, next in Deer Creek, Illinois, and came to El Paso in 1865. He and his family lived where Mrs. R. L. Beshers lives, but in the house now owned by John L. Blackmore.

J. McCANN, a native of Indiana, came to Illinois in 1866, and had his office in a drug store on Front Street. His card read: "U. S. examining surgeon of pensions and a general practitioner of medicine. Office practice a specialty for the treatment of chronic and acute diseases."

GUSTAVUS BUTTLER was educated in Dresden and graduated at Leipsic in 1859. He opened an office in Newark, Ohio in 1860 and came to El Paso in 1866, soon moving to Panola where he practiced for forty years.

FREDERICK COLE was active in many civic affairs. He was a member of the council in 1881-2, and was credited with taking the lead in the erection of the east side school in 1869. He sold his practice to Dr. C. E. Davis December 26, 1885 and moved to Garden City, Kansas.

D. W. LAMME, a native of Ohio, came to El Paso in 1867. He was a member of the council in 1878-9 and mayor in 1880.

R. U. CHAPMAN read medicine in the offices of Drs. R. C. Chapman and J. A. S. Goudy of New Comerstown, Ohio, from 1857 to 1861 and attended Starling Medical College in Columbus. After practicing in Bakersfield and New Romley, Ohio, he settled on a farm three miles west of Kappa in 1869 and had a medical office in his home. He was admitted to Illinois practice in January, 1877. He moved to Prescott, Iowa.

R. A. MARTIN bought property in Secor October 17, 1877, and resided there several years.

L. E. BARTON bought property in Secor in 1877 and practiced there many years.

FLOYD O'BRIEN, son of Delos O'Brien, practiced in El Paso about 1880. He removed to Sibley and later to Kansas.

CHARLES E. DAVIS purchased Dr. Frederick Cole's practice December 26, 1885 and resided in the home now owned by Lee Schertz. Dr. Davis sold his practice to Dr. Frank Stubblefield August 7, 1890 and moved to Peoria.

W. R. SHINN was first venerable councilman of the Modern Woodmen of America in February, 1886. He sold his practice December 15, 1887 to Julian Smith and moved to Chenoa.

JULIAN A. SMITH located in El Paso January 1, 1888. He built an office west of the Christian Church and a home west of that office. He sold his practice October 14, 1899 to Dr. Clyde F. Homer.

FRANK A. STUBBLEFIELD was born in New Salem, Illinois. He graduated from the Missouri Medical College in 1882, and came to El Paso in August,

1890. In 1892 he built a house and office at the corner of First and Central Streets. He sold his practice to Dr. Frederick Langhorst on December 3, 1901.

ROBERT EARL GORDON came to El Paso in December 1894 from Benson. He was graduated from the Missouri Medical College at St. Louis in 1893 and practiced here until he died November 16, 1951. (See the Name and Fame Chapter for a more complete biography of Dr. Gordon.)

M. V. GUNN, a native of Olney, Illinois, graduated in March, 1885 from the Medical College of Ohio. He opened his practice in El Paso on January 1, 1895 and on May 1, 1901 moved to Chatsworth, Illinois.

WILLIAM R. VAN HOOK, a native of Kentucky, entered the Union Army as a surgeon and served throughout the war. After a winter in New York City hospitals and two winters in study in Chicago hospitals, he came to El Paso and began practice in March, 1895. We cannot name previous locations. He purchased the residence now the Wilkey Nursing Home, but closed his El Paso practice in 1898.

CLYDE F. HORNER, a native of Woodford County, graduated from Northwestern Medical College and bought the practice of Dr. Julian A. Smith. He moved to Tiskilwa.

J. C. AIKEN was located April 6, 1901 in Secor.

FREDERICK LANGHORST purchased the office and practice of Dr. Frank Stubblefield December 3, 1901 and practiced here until he moved to Elgin in 1908.

EUGENE PITTS graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery and came two days each week from Bloomington to practice in El Paso from July, 1902 to August, 1903.

J. MELVIN MULLINS, a D. O. and M. D., established an office over F. J. Valentine's store, date unlocated.

FREDERICK C. NICHOLS, M. D., was educated in St. Louis and came to El Paso to practice in 1905, building the home and office at 103 North Elm Street. He became associated with the Belt Automobile Indemnity Association and sold his practice.

FRANK H. HENDERSON graduated from Northwestern Medical College and located first in Secor. He purchased the practice and home of Dr. Frederick Langhorst in 1908. He moved to Bloomington.

HOMER CLARK, D. O., established an osteopathic office in El Paso in July, 1911, afterward buying the practice of Dr. A. E. McReynolds. Dr. Clark also received his M. D. degree in 1923. He died in March, 1925.

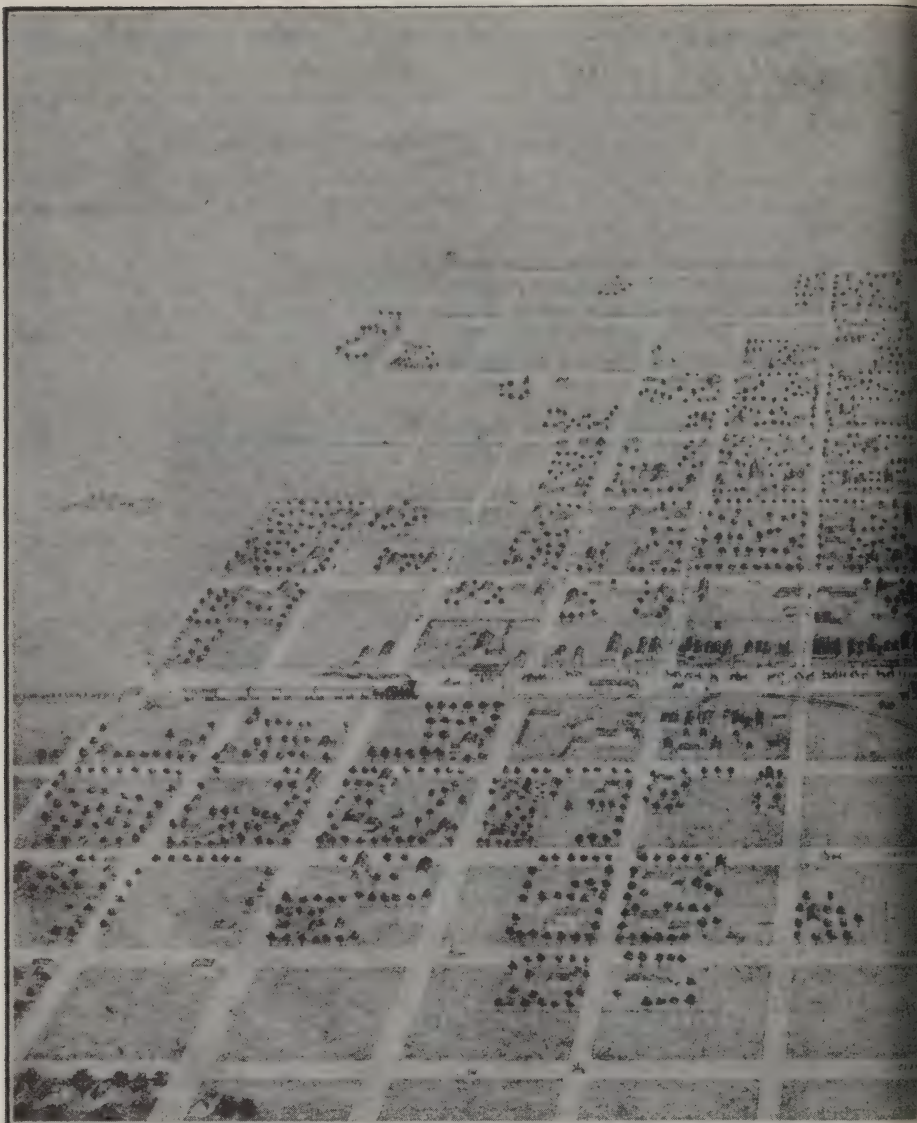
A. E. McREYNOLDS was the first resident osteopathic physician and surgeon in El Paso, opening his office here about 1908. After some years in El Paso he sold his practice to Homer Clark, D. O., and attended the Johns Hopkins Medical College, finally returning to El Paso where he practiced medicine until his death in March, 1946.

F. E. NAGEL, M. D., was located and practiced in Secor from 1911 to 1933.

L. E. STAFF, D. O., became associated with Dr. McReynolds in 1913 and later with Dr. Homer Clark. He moved to Jacksonville in 1916.

ALFRED CLARK, D. O., became associated with his brother, Dr. Homer Clark in 1917, after graduating from the Chicago College of Osteopathy and Surgery in 1915. He practiced in Minonk for a time before coming to El Paso, where he died in November, 1928.

DR. CARROLL was located in Panola for a few months in 1912.



EL PASO IN 1869.



JAMES M. GULICK purchased the medical practice of Dr. F. H. Henderson on August 7, 1917 and lived in the residence at First and Central Streets.

J. M. HICKMAN, M. D., came here from Westville, Illinois, but after some months returned to that city. He purchased the practice of Dr. Gulick.

FRANK D. McNERTNEY, a graduate of the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery, was an intern in Washington Park and Central Hospitals in Chicago, and house surgeon for the Samaritan Hospital in Detroit. Serving in the Medical Corps in World War I, he came to El Paso following his discharge in April, 1919. He now practices in Bloomington.

C. CARROLL JONES, a native of southeastern Maine, graduated from Loyola University and was an interne in West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park. He was a staff physician in the Michigan State Hospital in Kalamazoo for two years. He practiced in El Paso from 1920 to 1928. After a post graduate course at Harvard, he specialized in pediatrics in Bloomington. He is now retired and lives in Del Mar, California.

S. C. DRISCOLL, D. C., opened his chiropractic office in El Paso in the summer of 1924, the first of that school to locate here. At the close of 1926 he removed his office and residence to Eureka.

C. E. CRYER, D. O. is a graduate of Morris High School and the Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery. He purchased the practice of Dr. Alfred Clark in September, 1926, and has practiced here continuously since that date. His home is in Elmwood Court, and his offices are at 39 East Front.

JULIAN KRAKOWSKI purchased the medical practice of Dr. F. D. McNertney and was located here for about two years in the late 1940's.

MELVIN J. GLICK, M. D., came from Roanoke in 1946 and moved to Eureka in 1948.

ROBERT P. LYKKEBAK, M. D., graduated from the Medical College of the University of Illinois in 1942 and interned in the Cook County Hospital. He served three years in the Army Medical Corps in World War II, and following his service opened an office in Chatsworth. He moved to El Paso May 23, 1947 and has practiced here since that date. He lives at 495 West Third Street and has offices at 399 West Front Street.

DARWIN H. POPE, D. C. and ISABELLA POPE, D. C., husband and wife, are graduates of the Palmer School of Chiropractic. They opened their office in El Paso August 18, 1947 and have practiced continuously since that date. They now have their home and offices at 352 East Third Street.

CLETUS T. KEARNEY, M. D., a native of this area, graduated from the University of Illinois Medical School in 1933. His internship was served in San Francisco, California, where he was a prison physician at Alcatraz Island. He opened his office in Gridley in 1936, spending the years 1942-1946 in the Army Medical Corps during World War II. He opened his El Paso office in December, 1948, now located at 3 North Grant Street. He has a country home on Route 51.

DOCTORS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

J. W. PARKINSON, had an office in the Eagle Block prior to the July 19, 1894 fire, practicing as a veterinary.

W. D. CARVER had veterinary offices here for many years, from around 1895 to 1949.

S. J. MOFFETT, a graduate of McGill Veterinary College, Montreal, Canada, was a veterinarian in El Paso from 1901 until about 1910.

F. J. KRENZ was the first to practice veterinary medicine at the present veterinary offices. He was here in 1916, and moved to Mendota at an unknown date, where he practiced for many years.

G. L. WATTERS, D. V. M., succeeded Dr. Krenz, locating in the present Kelsey offices. He was assistant state veterinarian in 1920.

JAMES A. OWENS, D. V. M., purchased the practice of G. L. Watters. He came from Indiana and was active in local school and civic affairs. An outdoor man, he and his wife were drowned in Comer Lake while on a fishing trip in Canada.

E. E. KELSEY, D. V. M., is a graduate of Iowa State College of Veterinary Science and began practice in El Paso in 1946 following the drowning of Dr. Owens. He has practiced continuously since that date from offices in rear of his residence at 131 West Main Street.

G. E. SCOTT, D. V. M., was a graduate in the first class of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Science in 1952. He associated with Dr. E. E. Kelsey for a year and a half, but recently located elsewhere.

LAW AND LAWYERS. Legal practice in this area commenced in the sixties, but our legal background had its beginnings with the formation of Woodford County and the establishment of the courts. Versailles was named as the temporary seat of justice for two years. The commissioners' court, now the county court, was in session in June, 1841 and the first session of the circuit court was held September 24, 1841 with Hon. Samuel H. Treat of the State Supreme Court presiding. Chancery court was established in 1842. The next year on June 17, 1843, Hanover, renamed Metamora within a year or two, was selected as the permanent seat of justice.

Woodford County was assigned to the Eighth Judicial Circuit, which in 1845 included fifteen counties, a territory about 150 miles long and as many broad. Hanover was the name of a land company which owned some 12,000 acres of land near the town, and whose members had taken an active part in securing the county seat. The courthouse was built in 1845 of local materials. The Hanover Company which had secured the contract, sublet it to David Irving of Metamora for \$4,400. Mr. Irving burned the brick, cut logs in neighboring woods and hauled them to Park's sawmill at Partridge Point, and there had them sawed for joists and floors. The finishing lumber was white walnut from Johnson's mill near Spring Bay. The shingles were made of black walnut from the woods near the town. The lime had to be found elsewhere, and was hauled in wagons from the Kickapoo bluffs beyond Peoria.

Until the Court House was completed, court was held in a little house which stood at the southeast corner of the square, afterwards used for law offices. When a private consultation was needed, the lawyer met his client in the corner of a room, in the shade of a park tree, or on the sunny side of a building. The old Metamora House tavern was located on the northeast corner of the block just south of

the square. It was in these buildings around the little park that Woodford County's legal history had its simple beginning.

In 1848 to 1862 Judge David Davis served as circuit judge, often visiting Metamora; Adlai E. Stevenson started his law practice and became a resident in Metamora for a time; Robert G. Ingersoll, perhaps the most gifted orator in the United States, was admitted to practice there in 1854, and Abraham Lincoln traveled the circuit, visiting Woodford County frequently. Often these itinerant lawyers hired a three-seated spring wagon to travel from court to court. There was much that was uncomfortable in riding such long distances, but there was much that was interesting. The freedom of the long days spent in travel made days of entertainment to Lincoln and the other lawyers riding the old Eighth Circuit.

The state was new and the settlers in the new county of Woodford were few and far apart in the 1840's. As Miss Ida Tarbell relates, the courts were not very busy, and "the cases were of the common sort to a new country, litigation over bordering lines and deeds, over damages by wandering cattle, and over broils at country festivities. Few of the cases were of large importance." The lawyers had no newspapers, libraries or other means of entertainment or study, so when they were not busy, they held jumping contests, pitched horseshoes or played catch until summoned by the judge for their case. Because of the idle time and slow pace of events, story telling became an art; when darkness fell, Lincoln was usually one of the group found sitting under the trees in the park on a summer night. Uncle Billy Jenkins, El Paso pioneer, enjoyed one of those sessions one evening as a listener visiting from Kickapoo.

In 1849 the commissioners' court was changed to the county court, and Welcome P. Brown, the first county judge, in recounting his qualifications mentioned that he had read the volume of Illinois State Laws, the one and only book in the law library of Stephen A. Douglas. As previously stated, lawyers had few books and often none were obtainable on the circuit. Arguments were of a practical nature and suits were sometimes disposed of in a manner which would amaze any lawyer of the present day. Thus, Melissa Goings disappeared during her trial in 1849 for murdering her husband, by the simple expedient of walking away from the Metamora courthouse during a recess. When last seen she was conferring with her counsel Abraham Lincoln. The way old time Woodford County lawyers later told the story, bailiff Robert T. Cassell accused her counsellor of "running her off." Lincoln said "I didn't run her off. She only asked where she could get a drink of water, and I told her they had mighty good water in Tennessee." Since Melissa was never seen again in this county, her case ended abruptly, and her bondsmen finally escaped penalty also. In many cases tried in these early courts, there was no Illinois law to be used as precedent for argument.

To visit the old courthouse in Metamora is to sense a certain presence there. Mr. Lincoln's greatest attribute was his moral sense of justice which he saw with such keenness and presented so vividly that he left no doubt in the minds of those who heard him of what was right and what was wrong. The manner of his own life was directed by his ever present awareness of this line of distinction for which he allowed no variance. Thus, if the Melissa Goings story is true, it is only because everyone knew that under the circumstances of her case she deserved to be acquitted. Lincoln was so completely honest that no one could doubt him. He was without any sense of arrogance. His kindly helpful ways, his feeling of complete democracy, his love of humor, his inimitable way of telling a lively story, his love of people and his feeling of reverence for the sublime, all were attributes which made him a man to whom the whole world has paid honor. The little courthouse in Metamora stands as a monument because he once practiced law there.

In the sixties several lawyers came to El Paso. John T. Harper graduated from the Chicago School of Law, now Northwestern, followed his Civil War service, and began practicing law in El Paso in 1865, forming a law partnership with Robert G. Ingersoll of Peoria and Joseph J. Cassell of Metamora. Travel from this area to Metamora in all kinds of weather was not always possible, so several of our early lawyers became associated with some Metamora lawyer for that reason. Later Joseph J. Cassell moved to El Paso. There is an affidavit recorded in the records of Woodford County and a reference in the 1878 County History "That at an early date there was a Recorder's Court in the City of El Paso, and that the presiding judge was Joseph J. Cassell, said court being later discontinued by an Act of the Legislature. W. G. Randall was Master-in-Chancery of said Court in 1871-2. The records of this Court were destroyed by fire when a building in which they were stored on West Front Street burned."

In 1865 we find three others practicing law in El Paso, W. G. Randall, Calvin E. Barney and Simon P. Shope. From the close of the Civil War until the national panic of 1873 El Paso was a flourishing town. There were two railroads, the Campbell House and the Strathman Building were imposing three-story structures, there were eight new churches, two large flour mills, a barrel factory, a brewery, a roundhouse, an iron foundry, plow and wagon factories, two lumber yards, one and often two newspapers, three buggy and wagon factories, a livery stable, elevators, the new east side school and the Eagle Block building, both three stories high. All this building with many stores well stocked with merchandise meant an expenditure of more than a quarter-million dollars within eight years. Such a boom attracted notice, and among the new inhabitants were seven doctors and eleven lawyers.

From the panic of 1873 until that of 1884, the intervening years represented less prosperity. Not many improvements were made, but

the first water tower and the addition to the west side school came in this period. With limited means for fighting fires, there were devastating losses, often with little or no insurance. There were business failures, and when the revenue collector defaulted in 1873 his bondsmen, W. R. Bigham and S. T. Rogers continued for eleven years to make repayments. The contractor for the Eagle Block building failed to finish his contract which cost the promoters an added \$30,000 to complete the buildings.

On July 4, 1876, the nation's centennial day, Dr. D. W. Lamme made the address and in an effort to be reassuring he presented the volume of revenue taken in by the railroad offices of El Paso for the year 1875:

Ticket sales of the Illinois Central,	\$10,165.15
Ticket sales of the T. P. & W. R. R.,	12,737.10
Freight received by the I. C. R. R., 17487 tons,	30,937.45
Freight forwarded by the I. C. R. R., 7434 tons,	28,521.05
Freight received by the T. P. & W. R. R., 10590 tons,	25,737.99
Freight forwarded by the T. P. & W. R. R., 25390 tons,	34,066.00

In 1877-78 riots spread over the whole country and business became very unsettled. One of the El Paso combination grocery and dry goods stores became greatly overstocked and failed. An increased amount of legal procedures was the cause for four new lawyers arriving. At one time five lawyers in one family were practicing here, Mr. Robert T. Cassell, his sons Joseph J. and Martin H. Cassell, and two sons-in-law, John T. Harper and Walter S. Gibson.

The times grew worse. Almost \$70,000 invested in the two large flour mills and the barrel factory proved a loss; in 1882 bank deposits declined \$50,000, a large sum for those days, and in 1883 the bank failed, adding disaster to the approaching national panic of 1884. Four lawyers counseled and worked to restore financial order. Judge A. M. Cavan who practiced almost continuously in El Paso from 1867 to 1907 witnessed these upheavals, which included the Romeo Lewis land case in 1889 and the Ransom-Bullock murder case. Judge Walter S. Gibson, practicing from 1873 to 1892, Robert T. Cassell from 1874 to after 1887, and Walter Bennett from 1877 to 1892 won much of their esteem for their good counsel during these very trying years.

Since the days of readjustment and better times, the requirements of the legal profession have grown. Today there are several kinds of tax laws, including corporate, income, inheritance, gift, excise and state. There are municipal laws, school laws, banking laws, interstate laws, not to mention the classifications of criminal and civil law cases. A pre-law college course and a law course successfully passed is a prerequisite to taking the bar examination in any state, since the law is now complex beyond anything our early lawyers knew. This has led to specialists in the various law cases as it has in the other professions.

LAWYERS.

W. G. RANDALL was a native of New York. In *The El Paso True Patriot* of September 9, 1865, he is listed as an "Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public and Solicitor in Chancery, El Paso, Illinois. Office opposite the Campbell House." Mr. Randall may have been here earlier as he came west in 1863. His office was destroyed in the fire of October 10, 1882.

JOHN T. HARPER, a native of Indiana, served in the Civil War and graduated from Chicago Law School after that. He began practice in El Paso in 1865 in partnership with Robert G. Ingersoll of Peoria and Joseph J. Cassell, then of Metamora. In 1870 the firm became Harper and Cassell. After 1873 Mr. Cassell withdrew from the partnership. Harper founded *The El Paso Journal*.

CALVIN E. BARNEY after Civil War service, announced in *The El Paso True Patriot* for November 25, 1865 that he was an "Attorney-at-Law, and will attend promptly to all business entrusted to his care in Woodford and adjoining counties."

SIMON P. SHOPE advertised in the same issue as an "Attorney and Counselor at Law. Office at his residence a few doors west of the post office."

BENJAMIN F. BAKER was an attorney in El Paso during the 1860's.

McCULLOCH and CLOUD practiced here in 1869. Milton H. Cloud moved to Ford County.

JUDGE JOSEPH J. CASSELL, son of pioneer Robert T. Cassell, attended Abington College in 1860-2, and Eureka College for one year following that. In 1864 he received a diploma from the University of Chicago Law School which admitted him to practice. He first began practice in Metamora but came to El Paso in 1867. He was judge of the Recorder's Court here until the time of his death, November 11, 1880 when he was only thirty-nine years old.

JUDGE A. M. CAVAN was a native of Pennsylvania, attending school at Mercersburg. He lived as a youth in Paris, Indiana, and attended Lombard College at Galesburg, Illinois for one year. He studied law for a year, and then read law with the firm of Harper and Cassell. In 1867 he was admitted to the bar at Metamora, opening his law office in El Paso. He served a term in the state legislature in 1870, was city attorney of El Paso in 1883 and postmaster in 1887. He resigned to run for county judge and was elected, serving for the 1890-1898 terms. His El Paso practice extended from 1867 to November, 1907.

WILLIAM R. WILLIS, mentioned several times elsewhere, was a native of Kentucky. After a varied career, he read law and was admitted to practice in 1870. He was a justice of the peace and city attorney in 1872. (See Pioneer List appendix.)

WALTER S. GIBSON, a native of Pennsylvania and nephew of El Paso's co-founder, entered Eureka College in 1867 and attended for four years. He read law in the offices of Julius Starr in Peoria. He was admitted to practice in 1871 and set up his law office in El Paso. He was city attorney from 1874 for many years. He moved to Peoria in 1892 and later to Chicago where he became associated with the Chicago Title and Trust Company.

ROBERT T. CASSELL, a native of Kentucky, came to Illinois in 1831 and to the Metamora area in 1838. In 1849 he was bailiff. He read law with Judge Jones of Pekin and was admitted to practice in 1851. In 1868 he served in the state legislature, and came to El Paso shortly after or before that date. In 1887 he was city attorney of El Paso. (See Pioneer List appendix.)

MARTIN H. CASSELL, a son of Robert, practiced law in El Paso in the 1870's and was postmaster here in 1880. He was killed in the Chatsworth wreck, August 10, 1887. (See Pioneer List appendix.)

WALTER BENNETT was an attorney in El Paso in 1877, serving as city attorney for four terms. In the spring of 1892 he and his family moved to Arizona, where he died in May, 1933.

WALTER BULLOCK was an attorney in El Paso in 1877. Mr. Bullock was shot and killed May 2, 1881 by former Mayor Porter C. Ransom.

D. H. MOULDS was city attorney in 1893-4.

CHRISTIAN G. SCHROEDER was graduated in 1896 from the Chicago Law School and admitted to practice in June, 1897. In 1898-9 he was a partner of Judge A. M. Cavan; from 1899 until his death in 1938 he practiced alone.

JOHN F. BOSWORTH read law in the offices of Thomas Donovan of Joliet, later a lieutenant governor of Illinois. Mr. Bosworth was admitted to practice in Chicago in 1898, following which he set up law offices in El Paso. He was county judge from 1906 to 1911. The latter year he formed a partnership with his son, Vane C. Bosworth, but served as postmaster from February, 1915 to May, 1920. Judge Bosworth died in February, 1923.

ISAAC B. HAMMERS, JR. was of an old pioneer family and practiced law in El Paso for about thirty years. He was a state legislator for one term and served as master-in chancery.

JAMES FLEMING STURGEON graduated from Knox College and read law. In 1901 he formed a partnership with I. B. Hammers, practicing law for many years as a side-line while serving as Cashier of the Woodford County National Bank.

FRANK B. SCHAFER graduated from the old Jefferson Park High School in 1898 and from the Northwestern University Law School in 1904. He entered into a law partnership with Judge Cavan from 1904 to 1907, but practiced alone thereafter. He died in October, 1911 in El Paso, Texas.

JUDGE HORACE H. BAKER, son of Joseph G. and Emogene Lincoln Baker, with the exception of his first year lived his entire life in El Paso. He practiced law from 1906 to 1947. His biography is given in the Name and Fame Chapter.

VANE C. BOSWORTH graduated from the Illinois Wesleyan Law School in 1911 and was admitted to practice, forming a partnership with his father, Judge John F. Bosworth that year. From 1915 to 1919 Mr. Vane Bosworth was with the General Land Office in Washington, D. C. From 1919 to 1933 he associated with the Belt Automobile Indemnity Association, and from 1933 to 1939 with the State Farm Insurance Group. From 1939 to date he has been general counsel for the Pfister Hybrid Corn Company in El Paso.

FREDERICK B. BAKER graduated from El Paso Township High School in 1929, and attended Morgan Park Military Academy in 1930, Knox College in 1934 and the University of Wisconsin Law School, graduating from the latter in 1938. After being admitted to practice he associated with his father, Judge Horace H. Baker, forming the partnership of Baker & Baker. He served in World War II from April, 1942 to December, 1945, returning to his local law practice in 1945. He has served continuously as city attorney since 1947.

ROBERT DENEEN graduated from the University of Illinois Law School in 1950 and in 1952 practiced in El Paso as a branch of his Bloomington office.

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CHAPTER 14.

Our Neighbors

KAPPA was named by the Illinois Central, the railroad using the tenth letter of the Greek alphabet because the village was the tenth town planned between Dunleith, now East Dubuque, and Bloomington. The railroad section between Bloomington and La Salle was originally the Sixth Division, the first to be constructed. A section house, depot and residence for the company's agent was erected in 1852 and a warehouse added in 1853. Harry C. Cook became the first agent. The original depot in which he worked was purchased by Roy C. Dunseth and in 1934 was moved to the curve on the hard road at the north side of Kappa. It burned when a gasoline stove used in the restaurant-tavern set fire to it on July 24, 1936, causing the death of Mrs. Wm. J. Corbley and Leslie Bud Brown.

Thomas Dixon built a house on the present site of Kappa in 1833, and the Hibbs brothers and others had homes in the neighborhood prior to the construction of the Illinois Central. Rail service began May 23, 1853, and by 1856 all regular passenger trains stopped at Kappa for meals at Horace Meech's "eating house" at the depot. Meech later moved to Chicago. Not long after the rail service began, the post office known as Roxan was moved into the village. William Jones was appointed postmaster and called the place Montrose, but the railroad preferred Kappa, and that name was resumed after a short time. Frederick Niergarth was the second postmaster, serving from February 12, 1854 to March 2, 1857. Ira C. Stone, who lived to be 101 years old, was postmaster for fifteen years from about 1860 to 1875, although the exact dates are unavailable. George Lallman resigned in 1901 because of ill health, having served for twenty-five years under his own appointment and as an assistant to J. B. Drake, who was appointed by President Harrison. Lallman and Drake were partners in a grain and coal business and built the first grain elevator in Kappa in 1883. They divided responsibilities, Lallman continuing in the post office until a short time prior to his death, while Drake worked at the elevator.

Miss Florence Drake became postmistress in 1912 and held that position until she died in 1922. About 1907 J. B. Drake purchased a general store from Fielder & Wheaton, his son Eugene Drake succeeding him in 1914. Eugene also became postmaster upon the death of his

sister, and still holds that job and conducts the store. Thus, the Drake family has operated the Kappa post office for fifty-six years.

Dr. Albert Reynolds was the first doctor in Kappa and built an office there in 1854, about the same time W. R. Willis opened Kappa's first hotel.

The Kappa mill was built by Thomas Dixon below the old iron bridge over the Mackinaw River west of Kappa in 1830, and he operated it for three years. It was built of common boulders with one side slightly smoothed. A sawmill was built by Jacob Smoots in the late 1840's, and he sold it in 1850 to Hiram Havens of Hudson. Havens added one run of stones and converted it into a gristmill which burned down in 1852, when high water surrounded a barrel of limestone, igniting a partition in the building. It was rebuilt on the opposite side of the millrace in 1853 by James Jaynes; several others owned it thereafter for short periods before it was purchased by Dr. E. D. Witt.

The dam for the mill provided a small lake just southeast of Kappa, and Dr. Witt and his sons, Clint and Filmore, turned the area into a picnic center. They built a dance pavilion and other facilities, added a fleet of row boats, and at one time had a small steamboat which made regular trips between the dam and a deep spot at a bend in the river called "nigger hole" because a young Negro had accidentally drowned there while swimming.

The recreation area was named Pastime Park, and was the center for Sunday school and lodge picnics, troop encampments and community celebrations of all sorts for thirty years or more. Special trains ran from Bloomington to Kappa, and other cities brought groups for political rallies and Fourth of July celebrations, complete with brass bands and flowery oratory. For a number of years a hack made regular trips from El Paso to Pastime Park during the summer months. Filmore Witt entertained the crowds by walking a wire stretched high above the river. The dam went out during high water in 1894 and the mill was dismantled that November, but fishing parties and picnickers visited the place frequently until about 1912.

Kappa Cemetery is located at the northeast edge of the village, and in 1890 a walk was built connecting the two. Kappa has had electric lights for many years, but it was not until 1951 that street lights were installed. The Village Board of Trustees is composed of James Thompson, president; Floyd McClure, clerk; Ernest Nevius, Jesse Nevius, William Corbley, David Turpin, Jack Brown and Marion Leenhouts.

The present business activities of the village includes a branch plant of the El Paso Elevator Company, Drake's general store, three taverns with the Ro-Jo serving complete dinners, and a shipping station for corn cobs.

PANOLA is another Illinois Central town, the depot being the first building erected, but soon after that a store building was moved from Gabetown, which had served there as the Hammers & Crosley store.



THE GEO. BURROUGHS THRESHING RING IN 1913, PANOLA TOWNSHIP.

The relocated building was placed west of the railroad and south of where the store now stands. It was used in varied ways from 1854 until it burned on February 19, 1920. The Josephine post office was closed by Simpson Y. Barnard, and he built a new store in Panola and became the village's first postmaster. Hammers had sold his interest in Crosley's store to Thomas Patterson, and the latter later sold to Samuel G. Lewis. A second floor had been added, and this became the hall in which the Panola Masonic Lodge was organized in 1857. In 1855 William Tompkins opened a general store and James Dye a lumber yard. A blacksmith shop and a wagon factory was conducted by John Adams Sr., and Henry Saltsman became the proprietor of Panola's first hotel.

In the early 1860's a gristmill was located on the north side of the town west of the railroad. It blew up while Allen McCord was in charge of the engine; luckily no one was injured, but the damage was so extensive that Mr. Shepler discontinued his business.

Porter Bassett bought the first freight house in Panola and moved it to his farm opposite St. Mary's Cemetery on Route 51, where it is now owned by Chris Eichelberger and is still in use as a barn, though remodeled.

A coal shaft was sunk in Panola in January, 1888 to a depth of eighty feet, and the *El Paso Journal* of January 28, 1888, said: "at that point a vein of water was struck, and it could not be raised fast enough with two half barrels as buckets to allow the work to go on." The project was abandoned and the shaft filled in. It was located on the north side of town east of the railroad. Later prospecting in 1888



PANOLA IN 1901. LOOKING NORTH FROM THE LARISON ELEVATOR.
THE OLD ORIGINAL CROSLY STORE BUILDING IS AT THE EXTREME LEFT.

located a vein of coal at a little over 300 feet below the surface, but no shaft was dug.

An epidemic of typhoid fever in 1899 and 1900 was attributed to contaminated water at the depot, and many were ill and several died from the disease.

Samuel Lewis was elected justice of the peace in the first election held in Panola in April, 1856, with twelve ballots cast. Panola Township was separated from Minonk the next year; it previously operated as a precinct. A town hall was built on lots donated by N. S. de Vries in 1892.

The first rural mail route in Woodford County was laid out in 1900 from the Panola post office, with John C. Render the first carrier on the twenty-eight mile route. He resigned the next year and Peter Fischer became carrier, serving for sixteen years. On February 4, 1904, a second rural route for mail out of Panola was established and Peter Hauck became deliveryman on the new route. In 1917 the two were consolidated with Minonk taking part of the area previously served, and Mr. Hauck continuing as the only Panola carrier. The route was discontinued in 1935, El Paso routes taking over the territory.

Two elevators were built in Panola at unknown dates in the last century, one north and one south of the depot. Fred Larison finally acquired the south one and added a lumber yard. Both burned on August 18, 1917 when a gasoline engine backfired and they were never rebuilt. The El Paso Elevator Company built a new elevator on the north side of Panola around 1910, managed for them by Archie Kingdon. It caught fire and burned to the ground in February, 1914, and another was immediately built on the same site.



PANOLA TOWNSHIP SHELLING CREW—THE KINGDON HORSE-POWER SHELLING RIG WAS IN USE ABOUT 1896.

The schoolhouse was moved to the rear of the Raymond building in 1913 and a new brick school erected on the site. After the El Paso Community Unit District was formed in 1948, the new brick school continued for only about a year and was then sold for a residence.

After the fire of 1920 which destroyed Mrs. Haggard's general store, the only one in the village, a group of Panola residents and farmers organized and built the Panola store. This firm has been operated since January, 1944 by Mr. and Mrs. Luther George. Mrs. George also served as postmistress until the office was discontinued February 1, 1954.

The present village council is composed of Cecil Johnson, president; Mack Sands, clerk; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stimpert, Mr. and Mrs. Bart Letsinger, Howard Duncan and Mrs. Dora Longman, trustees.

SECOR was named for Charles A. Secor, one of the builders of the Peoria & Oquawka railroad, who managed to name a town site as did his partners William Cruger and Samuel Gilman, whereas George C. Bestor failed. Isaac Underhill owned the land on which the town is located, and he had it surveyed by D. H. Davison, county surveyor. The first three homes were erected by E. T. Van Alstine, Jacob Lahr and Peter Cannon in turn; Van Alstine, managed the early store which Underhill had erected, while Lahr moved in from Gabetown where he had his blacksmith shop before reopening it in Secor.

In 1862 Underhill built a fine, three-story brick hotel that rivaled the Campbell House at El Paso, also begun that year. However, the

Underhill did not pay and was finally sold at considerable loss, and in 1874 it burned.

Brick for these early structures was manufactured in the northeast corner of Secor by the Collins firm. Moore Collins came from England and settled in Secor in 1858 with his two sons William and James. They established the brickyard which ran for years, the open clay pit still remaining. James Collins was the final member of the family to operate the brickyard.

The first grain elevator was erected in Civil War days by Peter Crow. A year or two later Sidwell & Carroll built another, and added a flour mill in 1869. A one-room school was erected in 1857, with William Hendron the first Secor teacher.

In 1954 Secor is still a fine country village with plenty of lot space for further expansion. A Community Club was organized in 1951 which is active in the study of the neighborhood needs. A new fire house and fire equipment were added that year for the protection of a new Secor Community Fire District, as well as the protection inside the village, where adequate water service is now maintained. A cooperative telephone exchange serves the communication needs of the area, Jacob Graber serving as secretary. Recently the Palestine Cemetery Association has been set up, a tax supported body of which Virgil Wilkey is president and Lewis Powell secretary. Ben Moritz is now chairman of the village's board of trustees.

The largest business in town is the Secor Elevator Company, managed by Virgil Wilkey, which annually handles close to 300,000 bushels of grain and 1,500 tons of coal, in addition to feeds and other retail items. The town has three taverns, a grocery, a drug and variety store, the Hunzinger Implement and Hardware store, two garages belonging to Eugene Heller and George Garrels, a barber shop and the George Jacobs Plumbing & Heating shop. The Secor post office has but a single rural route with Dorsey Hibbs as carrier, which serves the country area around the town in all directions.

CHAPTER 15.

Clubs and Societies

EL PASO LODGE No. 246, A. F. & A. M. was originally organized as a Panola Lodge in October, 1857, but was removed to El Paso in October, 1862. Jonathan D. Park served as the first Master. The present officials are William Burroughs, Master; Loren Ludwig, Secretary.

THE MACKEY CHAPTER was organized August 31, 1868, and in October, 1868 was chartered as No. 130. Daniel Lewis was the first High Priest and P. H. Tompkins, Secretary. Present officers are Robert Bodger, High Priest and Melvin J. Remmers, Secretary.

THE COEUR DE LEON COMMANDERY No. 43, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR was granted a charter December 4, 1873. Sir James Thompson was the first Commander and Sir P. H. Tomkins, first Recorder. Present officers include Sir Loren Ludwig, Commander and Sir William Burroughs, Recorder.

THOMPSON CHAPTER No. 147, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR was organized April 16, 1889, with Mrs. R. C. Springgate Worthy Matron and George R. Curtiss, Secretary. The present matron is Mrs. Edward Heiken. Miss Nell Hyatt is Secretary.

EL PASO CAMP No. 168, MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA was instituted February 20, 1886. W. R. Shinn, M. D. was Venerable Counsel and Frank L. Kyser, Clerk.

PALMETTO LODGE No. 21, ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA, an auxiliary of the Modern Woodmen of America, was organized November, 13, 1895 with Mrs. Ed Abrams, Oracle and Mrs. F. L. Newton, Recorder. Present officers include Mrs. James Coffey, Oracle and Miss Nell Hyatt, Recorder.

THE FARMERS' CLUB was organized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Porter S. Bassett on March 31, 1890, and is the oldest club of its type that has continued to be active, being now in its sixty-fifth year. The first officers elected were Elias S. Fursman, President; George W. Horner, Vice-President; A. D. Hopps, Secretary and Mrs. Porter S. Bassett, Treasurer. The charter members of this club includes husband and wives in each of the following memberships: Porter Bassett, Elias Fursman, George Horner, A. D. Hopps, James Pleasants, Daniel Hill, Jesse Hodgson, Jesse Worley, Joseph Hammers, Joseph Bonar, John Schofield and Louis Hodgson. A group picture of the members was

taken May 24, 1894. The present officers of the club include Mr. Lowell Crusius, President and Mrs. Lowell Crusius, Secretary.

The organization meeting of the Farmers' Club took place on the farm now owned by Chris Eichelberger opposite the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. The Bassetts were the grandparents of Gayle Schofield, and it was at Mrs. Bassett's suggestion the club was formed, as she had known a similar one in New York state, her former home. All the charter members owned the farms on which they lived, it being thought the owners would be more interested and more able to carry out the purposes for which the organization was formed.

A committee was appointed to inspect the farms of members and offer suggestions for improvement, but it has never performed these duties. Nevertheless, the farms soon began to show extra care, and improvements soon became noticeable. Mr. Elias S. Fursman, first president was a prominent and progressive farmer, and is written about in the Name and Fame chapter and the index of pioneers. Today the Club has a slogan, "One hundred years for the Farmers' Club."

There is a certain pride of membership longevity in this club, and today the senior members are Mr. and Mrs. Guy Armstrong with thirty-six years and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mayne, Sr., with thirty-four years. Others like the Frank Scheers and the Owen Schertzs are piling up seniority.

THE EL PASO LITERARY CLUB, now the El Paso Woman's Club, was organized at the home of Mrs. A. O. Shur in the summer of 1898. The original officers elected were: Mrs. Hannah Shur, President; Mrs. Anna Kirkpatrick, Vice-President; Miss Jessie Cannon, Secretary and Mrs. May Fleming, Treasurer. This educational and social club has been active through the years, and includes country members as well those living in El Paso. Present officers are: Mrs. Lyle Stewart, President; Mrs. K. A. La Rochelle, Vice-President; Mrs. Edward Ioerger, Secretary; Mrs. Harry Coss, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. Eugene Mayne, Treasurer. Executive Committee members include Mrs. Horace Baker, Mrs. Ralph Burster, Mrs. Edward Heiken and Mrs. Homer Sturm.

THE EL PASO COMMERCIAL CLUB was organized October 17, 1902, and for three decades was the most important civic body of men whose chief interest was the betterment of El Paso. The original officers were: Albert E. Fleming, President; Frank B. Stitt, Vice-President; J. F. Sturgeon, Secretary-Treasurer. The club incorporated on February 13, 1906; at that time Dr. Langhorst was president, J. J. De Motte was vice-president and F. G. Robinson, secretary-treasurer. For years the group had excellent billiard, card and reading rooms above 15 East Front Street, but the depression of the 1930's caused the club to abandon its charter and close.

EL PASO POST No. 59, THE AMERICAN LEGION was organized in response to a meeting called by Paul M. Mulliken in the city hall in February, 1919, attended by many veterans of World War I. Mulliken

was elected temporary chairman and C. C. Kingdon temporary secretary. The organization at first declined to affiliate with the newly organizing American Legion, awaiting further information as to its aims and purposes.

These points were finally cleared, and after a series of meetings the body applied for a charter in the new organization, and was granted a temporary charter dated July 18, 1919, containing the names of fifty members. The national organization issued its permanent charter to the post dated August 1, 1920, and the Illinois State Department of the Legion sent its permanent charter dated August 10, 1920.

Lawrence W. Callahan was the first regularly elected commander, succeeded by W. R. Winters. The post annually holds a Community-Legion banquet in March which has been attended by notable speakers and citizens. The centennial year dinner will be the 27th annual. Present officers include Chesney G. Ewing, Commander, Dale S. Robinson, Adjutant and Loren Ludwig, Finance Officer. The post owns its clubrooms at 25 East Front Street.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY to El Paso Post No. 59 was chartered by the department of Illinois on August 22, 1922 and by the national organization September 1, 1922. The organization had been formed that spring on a temporary basis with Mrs. Katherine Bosworth acting as chairman. This organization has annually served the banquets above mentioned and has interested itself in veterans affairs in general. Present officers include Mrs. C. E. Barney, President; Miss Marilyn Robinson, Vice-President; Mrs. Clift Wikenhauser, second Vice-President and Mrs. Clement Tipler, Treasurer.

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL. The El Paso Club held its first meeting at the Clifton Hotel on April 13, 1936. In the charter night meeting of May 5, nearly 300 attended the banquet held in the high school. The first officers were, Dr. C. E. Cryer, President; Clyde L. Tegard, Vice President; C. C. Kingdon, Treasurer and R. A. Burster, Secretary. The original board of directors included H. F. Boyd, F. L. Tarmen, Horace Baker, C. M. Rice, J. A. Kammerer, P. H. Andrews and C. E. McDaniel. There were thirty-five charter members.

Present officers of the El Paso Kiwanis Club includes C. W. Mahaffey, President; William F. Kitchell, Vice-President and Dr. D. H. Pope, Secretary-Treasurer.

EL PASO POST No. 6026, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS was chartered under date of June 4, 1946, with eighty charter members. A meeting was held in the City Hall on February 1, 1946, under the auspices of the national headquarters, to which all local veterans having overseas service were invited. The group decided to organize a post, and elected William L. Hynes their first Commander. Richard Dunmire was named Senior Vice Commander, Perry Hunt, Quartermaster and George Edwards, Adjutant. The 1953 officers include John Jones, Commander; Clarence Schlink, Senior Vice Commander, Charles

McHugh, Adjutant and L. P. Tucker, Quartermaster. The post completed its new building at Elm and Main Streets in 1950.

THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY to post 6026 held its first meeting in the Zehr Farm Supply building December 5, 1947. Seventeen members present organized the group, electing as the first officers Mrs. Lorene Hartman, President; Mrs. Marguerite Hocker, Vice-President; Mrs. Jeanne Jones, Junior Vice-President; Reta E. Zehr, Secretary and Mrs. Ferne Scott, Treasurer.

The new auxiliary held an installation January 11, 1948 in the Federated Church, the date of their charter, which contained forty-four names. The 1953 officers of the V. F. W. Auxiliary include Mrs. Mary Tipler, President; Mrs. Alice Loftus, Senior Vice-President; Mrs. Dorothy Benson, Junior Vice-President; Reta Zehr, Secretary and Mrs. Marguerite Hocker, Treasurer.

THE EL PASO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE was formed after the old El Paso Businessmens' Association disbanded. The Businessmens' Association had been active after the closing of the El Paso Commercial Club; both of these had been local bodies unaffiliated with any higher organization. The first officials of the local Chamber of Commerce were elected for the year 1944 and included J. W. McHugh, the first president; Walter L. Bailey, first vice-president, and Frank M. Rice who served as secretary and treasurer.

The officers for centennial year include Homer Sturm the president, Wayne West the vice-president and Burton Baity and Loren Ludwig serving as secretary and treasurer respectively. Much of the centennial week celebration which is scheduled for August 22-28, 1954 depends upon the efforts of these men and their committees cooperating with the general centennial committee.

There have been a number of lodges, veterans' organizations and other groups formed at various times that are no longer active. We list only the ones that seem the more important.

S. T. ROGERS POST No. 531, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC was composed of the Union veterans of the Civil War residing in the El Paso community. The post was chartered September 17, 1885, nearly twenty years after the first organization in Decatur, Illinois. The first local commander was Samuel T. Rogers who had been a lieutenant in Company A, 86th Illinois Infantry Regiment, and for whom the post was named. S. H. Worthington was elected the first adjutant.

The post was active for thirty-two years, the final entry in their minute book saying simply that "there being only four members present, it was voted to surrender the charter and disband the post." (See the chapter "El Paso Community in the Wars.")

S. T. ROGERS CHAPTER OF THE WOMENS' RELIEF CORPS No. 246 was organized in November, 1894 and chartered January 26, 1895.



SAMUEL T. ROGERS, EL PASO'S FIRST DRUGGIST; CIVIL WAR VETERAN IN WHOSE HONOR G. A. R. POST 531 AND W. R. C. POST 264 WERE NAMED. EL PASO'S EIGHTH MAYOR IN 1879.

Mrs. Jennie Worthington served as the first president and Mrs. Minnie Schofield as the first secretary.

SONS OF VETERANS OF THE UNION ARMY camp was organized in El Paso on March 16, 1895. The first captain was John B. Michels and the first sergeant Luther B. Renard.

BAVARIA LODGE No. 327, I. O. O. F. was organized October 7, 1866 and worked in the German language.

HUGH de PAYENS LODGE No. 241, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS was organized in April, 1890.

SILVER LEAF COURT OF HONOR LODGE No. 33 was chartered November 26, 1895. It had an insurance feature with its membership.

A HOME FORUM branch was organized in August, 1895. It featured insurance for both husbands and wives in its membership plan.

THE CHAUTAUQUA LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC CIRCLE was organized in 1881. Its first set of books was an extensive study of Greece, and the first meeting of the Circle was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hoagland. The membership increased until it included members residing over our entire community who continued the studies and social activities for almost twenty years. Some of the members traveled to Chautauqua, New York to attend the summer sessions held there.

THE PANOLA READING CIRCLE at one time had a large membership. A meeting December 31, 1885 was in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Patton. Their son Frank Patton, with Robert Evans, Alice Tucker, Robert Sturgeon, Rose Bonar, J. F. Sturgeon, L. K. Evans and Hattie Bonar were responsible for the program.

THE EQUESTRIAN CLUB was active in 1888 when Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hodgson entertained its members with a dinner in their home. The



THE CRYER APARTMENTS IN ELMWOOD COURT, THE FORMER HOME OF MR. AND MRS. ED HODGSON WHERE THEY OFTEN ENTERTAINED. THE HOME WAS BUILT AND ORIGINALLY OCCUPIED BY MRS. HODGSON'S PARENTS, THE GEORGE L. GIBSONS.

Hodgsons were noted for their interest in horses, both for pleasure and business.

THE PIANO CLUB gave several musicals in 1888 to raise money to buy a piano for the City Hall, used for community affairs. At a recital given on May 12, 1888, club members taking part included Myrtle Pleasants, Minnie Baughman, Major Worthington, Torie Kerr, Mrs. Joseph Baker, Mrs. Worthington, Kit McLafferty, George Curtiss, Elmer Shreve and L. K. Evans.

THE DICKENS CLUB was organized at an unknown date in the late 1800's and continued the study of that author's works until they were well acquainted with all the characters he so entertainingly describes.

THE EL PASO AUTOMOBILE CLUB was organized about 1911 for the study of the Ford and other automobiles, the improvement of roads, and the taking of organized trips to such far away places as Bloomington, Peoria and Starved Rock. Safety lessons in driving and in handling the new means of transportation was taught by factory-trained experts and the dealers.

THE DELPHIAN SOCIETY was another study group which had a large class of members who enjoyed studying books, and listening to book reviews and programs. Dates are now unavailable.

In the early 1890's Secor and the Greene Town Hall were the meeting places of frequent literary and entertainment groups. Only recently

this form of community life is revived in the Centennial and Bowling Green area, where the group has built their own hall and has presented excellent shows and other entertainments.

The social life of El Paso has included many organizations, mostly of a social nature, which space does not permit listing although many of them are still active. Our final listing deserves special mention.

THE EL PASO MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION is composed of the ministers of the Baptist, Nazarene, Federated, Christian, Evangelical United Brethern and Methodist churches. At present Reverend Jack B. North is President; Reverend Samuel Kuntz is Vice-President and Reverend Harvey D. Gabel is Secretary and Treasurer. This group annually sponsors the Lenten Services, the Daily Vacation Bible School, Good Friday Services, Thanksgiving Services and all of the Go To Church campaigns. Their purpose is to accomplish as a group what they might be unable to do as individuals. For four years they have met at 9 a. m. each Sunday for ten-minute prayer and study.

CHAPTER 16.

The El Paso Community in the Wars

Our area was settled largely by veterans of early American wars, foremost among them being Edward Fitz Patrick, great-grandfather of Ira and David Bilbrey, who was established in Greene Township in 1830. Back in his old home in Rowan County, North Carolina, he had two separate services in the late days of the Revolutionary War. Being nearly seventy when his children moved into the western wilderness, he did not long survive, and died in 1834 and was buried in the new Gabetown Cemetery.

Patrick and his brother had been shanghaied into maritime service after the custom of those times, when both were young lads in Ireland. They jumped ship in America, but became permanently separated. Edward finally met and married a North Carolina girl named Mary Jane McCord of the McCord family who also came into Greene Township. It was Mary Jane McCord's mother who obediently milked her cow at the command of a British officer during the Revolution, and then defiantly poured the milk on the ground instead of passing it to him, to become something of a patriot in early American history. Mary Jane apparently died before her husband and their children came to Illinois. Their daughter Amanda Patrick married Young Bilbrey (spelled "Bilberry" by error in most histories) and she is believed to have brought her father with them to Greene Township just prior to the winter of the deep snows.

Another veteran of the Revolution was Charles Moore, associated with the other Moores who built the water powered mill on Panther Creek near the later town of Bowling Green. He was killed in a runaway accident and his body shipped back to Effingham County for burial. A third veteran of the Revolution was Constantine O'Neil who served in Col. Clarke's Regiment of Pennsylvania troops late in that war. He lived in the Bowling Green community and is buried in an unlocated grave, the object of search by the Graves Registration Service of the local American Legion Post.

A number of those settling near here served in the War of 1812, but there were no especial services or incidents. The earliest war which took local men away to service was the brief Black Hawk War in 1832. Thomas A. McCord and Allen Patrick served in Capt. McClure's Bloomington company. Thomas helped bury the Hall massacre victims

near Ottawa, "the sight of these sixteen men, women and children, scalped and mutilated, being the worst I've ever witnessed," he reported afterward. Certain military expeditions into our section of Illinois, and James Bigger's service at Tippecanoe were mentioned in the first chapter.

The Mexican War in 1846 to 1848 was fought with a large proportion of regular troops. Our early settlers had almost no part in it, although several who moved here afterward had seen service south of the border. Those buried in our cemeteries are on the Legion's Graves Registration Lists, as are those from all of our other wars.

The great Civil War saw almost every able bodied man in service, although the evil of allowing a drafted man to hire a substitute let some escape their plain military duty. It was an error not repeated in later wars. The service included many "loyal" or "Stephen Douglas" members of the Democratic Party like Capt. Wingfield M. Bullock, then of Eureka, and Panola farmer Charles Kingdon, who left his wife and three babies to run the farm to which he did not return. These men believed as did Democratic Congressman John A. Logan, that in spite of Whig and Republican bungling through the years, the UNION MUST BE PRESERVED and that they should help their political foe, Abraham Lincoln, preserve it. Logan became a Union general during the war and a Republican senator from Illinois after the war, speaking on the site of the V. F. W. building on October 6, 1872.

Local soldiers served notably in the Civil War. The outstanding combat record was probably by the all-Woodford County Company A of the 86th Infantry that contained fourteen men from El Paso and six from Palestine Townships. Almost all the others were from Eureka or Olio Townships. Between 9 A. M. and 11:30 A. M. on Monday, June 27, 1864, this unit, having only about sixty men present for duty, had ten men killed and many others wounded in a bitter assault on the slopes of Kenesaw Mountain in Georgia. Four El Pasoans died: Corp. Caleb Chenoweth, Pvt. William H. Howell, Pvt. Thomas Dougherty and Pvt. Fenton Sutton. In addition, Frank Horn and Eber Hotchkins were captured and died later in a Confederate prison. Other local men who came through this bitter fight with sparkling credit included Edwin A. Childs, Abraham Mohr, S. P. Cable and John Robeson. The second in command was Lt. Samuel T. Rogers, for whom our Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 531 was named.

Company A had spearheaded this assault on Kenesaw. The 86th was of a division commanded by a general in the Union Army named Jefferson C. Davis, but who was no relation to the Confederate president. They were of John M. Palmer's Corps of Gen. George H. Thomas's Army of the Cumberland, and their terrific fight that fateful morning is best described by an eyewitness, Gen. O. O. Howard in *Battles and Leaders*:

Davis met withering fire from rifle ball and shells, but his men managed to make a shelter close to the hostile works, where they stayed and intrenched.

We now realized as never before the futility of direct assault upon intrenched lines, well prepared and well manned. The attack failed, . . . the line (of the Confederates against which the 86th charged) was stronger than was the Union's Cemetery Ridge line at Gettysburg.

Company "D" of the 108th Regiment, commanded by Capt. David R. McCutcheon of Panola, (probably no relation to the cartoonist, John T. McCutcheon)¹ was more of a local company than was "A" of the 86th. Although it took part in many other campaigns, it became noted for its extreme bad luck in the early phase of the Vicksburg operations. Fourteen of our soldiers died of disease in the marshes around Milliken's Bend and Young's Point in 1863. This company contained ten men from Greene, twenty-eight from Panola, four from El Paso and six from Palestine Townships, forty-eight local men in all. Not one of them was killed in action, but the list of those who died of disease around Vicksburg should make us appreciative of the better medical facilities of today. The 1863 casualty list is as follows: Lot Hanna, John Bowman, Andrew Betz, Lewis Hanna and Francis J. McCord, all from Greene; John M. Maxwell, William B. Ray, Simeon P. Betz, Charles Kingdon, George Hoover, Thomas Moss and John Siller, all of Panola Township; in addition there was William H. Cooper of El Paso and Isaac J. Leabo of Secor, all dead of disease in one campaign and all members of one company. The third in command in this hard luck outfit was 2nd Lt. Gabriel S. Woods, storekeeper of Gabetown, for whom that town was named.

Capt. Wingfield M. Bullock's Company "E" of the same regiment fared but little better. He had fourteen Palestine Township men in his unit and three of them died: Ancil Bunting, James H. Causey and Alexander Miller. Men later well known around El Paso who served under Capt. Bullock were George W. Horner, James A. Williamson, Allen Bilbrey and Marcus Robeson. Joel D. Powell of Secor served in the same regiment in another company. Capt. Bullock was shot through the leg in his final battle of importance, the attack on Spanish Fort guarding Mobile Bay. The captain had a decided limp until he died, long after the turn of the century. He moved from Eureka to the Bullock farm northwest of El Paso after the war and resided there until he retired, when he moved into his town residence, now the remodeled Vincent Funeral Home.

Another local unit was Troop "G" of the 4th Illinois Cavalry, formed by Col. T. Lyle Dickey of Ottawa. Harry D. Cook of Kappa organized Troop "G", called a company in Civil War days. When he was promoted to Major, the former first sergeant, Elijah H. Baker of El Paso was promoted from second lieutenant to captain and given command. No less than forty-five men from our five township area served in "G" company, and some twenty-five others from Gridley, Hudson, Eureka and nearby towns were also in the unit. Prominent El Pasoans included 1st Lt. John T. Harper, local lawyer, Sgt. William R. Bigham, local carriage manufacturer, William H. Campbell, John Carver and Marshall Montgomery, son of pioneer George Montgomery.

This unit took part in the capture of Fort Donelson, was in the battle of Shiloh, and in the campaign against Corinth. It was in this affair that the regiment's second in command, Lt. Col. William McCullough of Bloomington, was killed, the occasion for the "Dear Fannie:" letter of President Lincoln to the soldier's daughter in Bloomington. The regiment was united in the occupation of Vicksburg after it fell.

Company G, 17th Illinois Infantry, commanded first by Capt. O. A. Burgess of Metamora, later by Capt. J. H. Rowell of Eureka, was composed almost entirely of Woodford County men. It was this unit that hired a colored boy named Dave Strother as a cook. (See Chapter 17.) Jeremiah Ray of Panola, Alex Manor of Secor, James T. Reed and John Stevenson of Kappa were in Co. G, Reed dying of wounds.

Albert Dorsey, who settled in El Paso after the war, had some of the most interesting Civil War service. Albert enlisted from Pennsylvania and was captured at Gettysburg, being imprisoned on Belle Isle and in Libby prison in Richmond. Finally being exchanged with eligibility for further service, he rejoined his colorful French Zouaves Regiment, an outfit famed for its gaudy, bright uniforms and tough fighting qualities.

He saw nothing again as bad as Gettysburg, for his unit was chosen to guard President and Mrs. Lincoln when they lived temporarily on the *City Queen* which was tied up at the pier in City Point, Virginia, during the closing days of the war. Dorsey often recalled one night when guards who were off-duty were making so much noise below decks where they bunked, that Mrs. Lincoln sent word that they were to quiet down. They did, only to become noisy again a little while later. Suddenly they all looked up to see the tall form of the President of the United States slowly coming down the companionway toward them. The soldiers snapped to attention and Dorsey related, "We really quieted down." But Mr. Lincoln only grinned at them, looked around and said, "Go on with your music boys, I'm glad YOU can have some fun."

Dorsey outlived all his comrades in his G. A. R. Post save one, Edwin Somers, who passed away in California in 1944, but who is interred in Evergreen Cemetery here. Dorsey died at Alhambra, California in May of 1938, and was buried there. The final two G. A. R. veterans to live in El Paso were S. H. Worthington and Abraham B. Turner; the former died August 23, 1932, and Turner three months later on November 20. They had been photographed together at Memorial Day Service on May 30, 1930, but their autographed picture burned in the Legion room fire of 1946.

Turner had one of the finest combat records of any local man, having fought in twenty-two major engagements of the Civil War, being wounded twice. He was a Sergeant in Co. A of the 17th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry, and the monument to that unit atop Missionary Ridge marks



EL PASO'S LAST TWO RESIDENT SURVIVORS OF THE CIVIL WAR,
S. H. WORTHINGTON (LEFT) AND A. B. TURNER. TAKEN MAY 30, 1930.

the exact spot where Turner scaled those heights in that battle, since he was the right guide of the right company in the line. His toughest fight was when the 17th Ohio defended Snodgrass Hill in the Battle of Chickamauga, possibly the most sanguinary bit of the bloodiest battle of the Civil War, where Turner received one of his wounds.

El Paso area casualties were higher in the Civil War in proportion to the number serving than in any other war. John I. Lemon and his wife, who came to El Paso from Piatt County after the war, lost three sons: James D., killed at Deep Run, and William and Enos who died of disease. We list only those who lost their lives, and who registered as living in our community at the time they entered service:

CIVIL WAR.

The following local men of the Civil War were either killed in action (KA), died of disease (DD) or from wounds (DW), and were buried as noted, or on the battle fields in unknown graves:

*Arnett, Elijah, Troop C-14th Ill. Cav. (DD) or (DW) Sept. 8, 1864, Knoxville, Tenn.

*Betts, Andrew, Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) Jan. 31, 1863, Young's Point.

*Betts, Simeon P., Corp., Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) Feb. 4, 1863, Young's Point.

*Bowman, John, organization unknown. (DD) Oct. 12, 1864, Andersonville prison. Grave 10,791.

*Brooks, James P., Co. H-77th Ill. Inf. (DD) Feb. 16, 1864, New Orleans.

*Burger, James K., Co. F-88th Ill. Inf. (DW) Mar. 22, 1863, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

*Cabel, Jacob R., Troop C-14th Ill. Cav. (DD) Feb. 16, 1863, Peoria, Ill.

- *Chenoweth, Caleb A., Corp., Co. A-86th Ill. Inf. (KA) June 27, 1864, Kenesaw Mt.
- *Cooper, William H., wagoner, Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) June 18, 1863, St. Louis, Mo.
- *Dixon, Elisha H., Troop G-4th Ill. Cav. (DD) or (DW) Mar. 25, 1862, Savannah, Tenn.
- *Dougherty, Thomas, Co. A-86th Ill. Inf. (KA) June 27, 1864, Kenesaw Mt.
- *Drake, James, Co. C-77th Ill. Inf. (DW) June 6, 1863, near Vicksburg.
- *Fultz, Henry, Co. D-124th Ill. Inf. (KA) May 16, 1863, Champion's Hill.
- *Hanna, Lewis, Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) Mar. 28, 1863, St. Louis, Mo.
- *Hanna, Lot T., Corp., Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) Feb. 22, 1863, Young's Point.
- *Harvey, David C., Troop H-4th Ill. Cav. (DD) Dec. 12, 1862, Oxford, Miss.
- *Hoover, George, Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) July 31, 1863, Memphis, Tenn.
- *Horn, Frank, Corp., Co. A-86th Ill. Inf. (DD) Nov. 18, 1864, Andersonville, grave No. 12,090.
- *Hotchkin, Eber, Sgt., Co. A-86th Ill. Inf. (DD) Feb. 20, 1865, Confederate prison at Florence, So. C.
- *Howell, William H., Co. A-86th Ill. Inf. (KA) June 27, 1864, Kenesaw Mt.
- *Kingdon, Charles, Corp., Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) Apr. 8, 1863, Milliken's Bend, La.
- *Leabo, Isaac J., Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) or (DW) Jan. 17, 1863, Arkansas Post.
- *McCord, Francis J., Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) Mar. 4, 1863, Young's Point.
- *Maxwell, John M., Corp., Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) Feb. 28, 1863, Young's Point.
- *Moss, Thomas, Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) Jan. 24, 1863, Young's Point.
- *Painter, John, Troop G-4th Ill. Cav. (DD) or (DW) June 6, 1862, Monterey, Tenn.
- *Ramsey, Samuel V., Troop G-4th Ill. Cav. (DD) or (DW) Jan. 29, 1863, Lagrange, Tenn.
- *Reed, James T., Co. G-17th Ill. Inf. (DW) Apr. 28, 1862, Shiloh.
- *Siller, John, Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) Mar. 24, 1863, Milliken's Bend.
- *Strasbaugh, George, Sgt. Co. D-108th Ill. Inf. (DD) or (DW) Sept. 11, 1863, Lagrange, Tenn.
- *Sutton, Fenton, Co. A-86th Ill. Inf. (KA) June 27, 1864, Kenesaw Mt.
- *Taylor, John W., Troop G-4th Ill. Cav. (DD) Mar. 26, 1862, Mound City, Ill.
- *Trotter, John, Co. E-94th Ill. Inf. KA in Texas.

There were Indian campaigns in the West following the Civil War in which a few of our citizens served, David Hannah being among the last of these old timers. Henry P. Ore of Kappa was the only one killed in these actions, losing his life in an Indian attack near Fort Robinson, Nebraska, January 12, 1879. His body was shipped home and he is buried in the Kappa Cemetery.

All veterans of the Spanish-American War were volunteers, and they were the last veterans to receive regular pensions. Norman Cavan, Benjamin Evans and James Render were the only ones from here to enlist in this 100-day war, although Charles Pollard, who later lived here for many years, had enlisted from his old home at La Moille, Illinois. Disease played havoc among veterans who served in Cuba and the Philippines; however, no veteran of this short war could have had over eight hours of actual combat fighting.

Among those who survived, Miles Armstrong of the 2nd Division, James Conrad and Clyde Kingdon of the 3rd and Frank S. Cleary of the

26th probably saw the toughest combat service in the First World War. Frank Benedict, then of Gridley, but since a resident in El Paso had the most peculiar wound, for he has carried his own rifle sight in his cheek since the Meuse-Argonne when a German bullet knocked it off his own rifle and into his face. William J. Leach, Spanish-War veteran who was pastor of the El Paso Methodist Church in 1916-1919, took a year's leave to serve with the Y. M. C. A. attached to the 2nd Division overseas. Those from our community who lost their lives in World War I were Chester Blumenshine, John Lincoln North, Fred S. Skinner and Nelson Kamp. From the Secor area Ray W. Buck, Robert Cox, Taylor Dearth and Gustav Maier did not return from service. Max Pierce, formerly of El Paso but living in Bushnell in 1917, and Raymond Buell Seaton of Washington, whose father and stepmother lived in El Paso, also lost their lives. Most of these men died of disease, but Seaton was one who was killed in action.

World War II might be said to have begun in Shanghai, China with the 1932 Japanese bombing of that city, which followed closely the Manchurian occupation. Frank C. Cleary² was stationed there at that time by his business firm and calmly took motion pictures of the air raids. Arthur Lee Elkins was serving in the international section with the 4th U. S. Marines and died of disease that year. His young brother Leo was killed in action in far away Europe in 1944 in one of the closing campaigns of what we might call the same war. Both Elkins brothers are buried today in Evergreen Cemetery within a few feet of each other. This tends to show the vastness of this war; it was the first that was really world wide.

Following World War I the United States Army developed a reserve program for the first time under the leadership of Gen. Leonard Wood. A great many officers of the war remained subject to call in what was called the Officers Reserve Corps, and the Illinois National Guard and its 33rd Division gained added improvement and importance as a peace time training medium, implemented by graduates of the Reserve Officers Training Corps and the Citizens Military Training Camps. A number of El Pasoans thus gained valuable training for World War II duties, which they would not otherwise have had. Lt. Col. Donald Mayne was a product of the R. O. T. C., and Major Harold Render who was badly wounded in the fighting in Europe was a four year C.M.T.C. trainee during peace time.

Three old World War I retreads were in World War II within four days after it began: Clay M. Donner, Virgil C. Gordon and Cassell C. Kingdon. Donner had been an overseas lieutenant in the 33rd Division in World War I and Gordon and Kingdon saw only state-side service. In World War II they reversed this on the General who busily handled Ohio's draft calls. While Gordon helped plan one phase of the African invasion and landed with it near Casablanca, Kingdon commanded the 480th Port Battalion at Casablanca and in the invasion at the Salerno beach landing, handling half the ship-to-shore supplies for the American forces prior to the fall of Naples.

One El Paso native served with distinction in Italy. Robinson E. Duff³ was born on the Frank Koerner farm west of town and later lived as a boy at 29 East First Street. Serving as a brigadier general in the regular army, he was deputy commander of the crack 10th Mountain Division which came into the Italian campaigns in 1944. In the final days of the war he was assigned to command what was called Task Force Duff, a fast moving, heavily armored force which aided mightily in the 1945 cleaning up campaign in northern Italy. Duff was wounded in this final phase and had to be replaced. He is now a major general and lives in Falls Church, Virginia.

There was so much valiant service all over the world in this second of the great wars that we cannot tell much of it here. As in the Civil War, very young men had big and important jobs, like Lt. Robert V. Bower of the Navy, already a veteran seaman at twenty-six and the captain of Mine Sweeper 72 in the vast Pacific which one day raged into a mighty typhoon. The young man brought his ship and crew safely into port. Not so fortunate were other youngsters, like Flight Officer Clayton Schofield of the Air Force, who tarried in his crippled bomber over Pontebba, Italy, to make certain all his crew had bailed out and then was too late to save his own life because his chute was on fire. Three boys named Richard live forever on El Paso High School's finest honor roll, for Richard King, Richard Ball and Richard Hibbs are



FLIGHT OFFICER CLAYTON SCHOFIELD, WHOSE CONCERN FOR THE CREW COST HIM HIS OWN LIFE.

among those listed killed in action. No one knows what happened to Ball, who like Grover Brines, Jr., was last seen flying his ship in search of enemy planes.

There are a number of interesting "firsts" in World War II. First El Paso mento fight were Everett Roberts and Dale Patterson. Roberts, now a Secor farmer and past commander of El Paso Post of the American Legion, grabbed a machine gun and did his futile bit in trying to repel that famous 8:55 A. M. attack on Hickam Field on Oahu, December 7, 1941. Dale Patterson was aboard his big battleship, the Pennsylvania, in dry dock at Pearl Harbor that same morning. All hands manned battle stations immediately; the dock was filled, and the crippled first line ship took to the sea as soon as she could.

First to land in Africa was Col. V. C. Gordon and perhaps several others who made the invasion of February 8, 1942. First into an enemy held port with his ship was Leslie Eft, on the Wilkes, destroyer 441, when she went through the narrow channel into Casablanca harbor in the early dawn of February 9, 1943. First foot soldier to land on Hitler's fortress Europe was Marvin Bowman of Company L, 143rd Infantry Regiment of the famed 36th Division. Not only was Marvin first into Europe in that assault opposite Paestum, Italy on the morning of September 9, 1943, he also was the first El Pasoan to be captured by the enemy when his unit was cut off in the Salerno beach fighting while attacking the mountain town of Altavilla in the first serious setback of the invasion. His unit withdrew, leaving Marvin among the rear guard, and all of these men were captured September 16, 1943. Merlyn D. Kingdon landed on Salerno beach the day Bowman was captured, to become the second El Pasoan into Europe and he was followed that same day by his cousin, previously mentioned. Merlyn was also second man to be captured, this occurring in the Anzio invasion the following winter when his unit was overrun February 29. He was a member of Company C, 180th Infantry, 45th Division.

The sad distinction of being the first local man to be killed in action belongs to Leonard L. Schrader who was killed on April 27, 1943 in the fighting in Tunisia while a member of Company M of the 60th Infantry Regiment. First honors for taking an enforced swim in the ocean goes to Dale Patterson. The Pacific sailor was this time on the Chevalier, and the Japanese shot it out from under him in the middle of that big ocean. Fortunately for Dale, the ship which picked him out of the water was flying the flag he wanted to see, and although very wet and cold, he was at that moment a happy sailor.

The three enemy capital cities of Rome, Berlin and Tokyo fell in that order as the war went on. First El Pasoan into an enemy capital city was Edward Heiken, who, with the crack 1st U. S. Armored Div. rode his iron steed into one of the gates of Rome on June 2, 1944, ran it around a couple of blocks, and right out that same gate again and back to the American lines. This was two days before the Eternal City finally fell, and on the day Ed first saw it, it was still full of

Germans. First local soldier into the Normandy invasion was Clift J. Wikenhauser, with Headquarters Company of the 401st Glider Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division, whose glider dropped out of the skies in the early morning of D day, June 6, 1944, and who won the Bronze Star for gallantry when he took command of his platoon after the platoon leader was killed. First El Pasoan over the Rhine River was Willard B. Carver, whose 9th Armored Division took the first bridge at Remagen intact before the Germans had a chance to blow it up. Our most seriously wounded veteran is Marion Altum, who suffered total disability and now lives in Normal.

Like those of the other wars who lost their lives during the service, the heroic dead of World War II must ever be remembered as representing the highest of American traditions. These were:

Albert Aldrich	Virgil D. Hepperly	Thomas D. Robbins
Richard W. Ball	Richard R. Hibbs	Clayton Schofield
John L. Berry	Robert G. Hilger	Leonard L. Schrader
Grover S. Brines	Edward T. Kearney	George W. Schroeder
Cyrus C. Coyle	Richard W. King	Aldred Skaggs
Nellie Crout	Owen L. McClane	Edward A. Stimpert
Vernon L. Davis	John J. McGuire	Lloyd A. Stoller
Leo Elkin	Donald S. Nohren	Victor H. Stortz
Charles W. Gerth, Jr.	Charles L. Robbins	Howard F. Vogel

The most unusual of America's wars was the Korean conflict, which was at first termed a police action, but which in point of duration and casualties must now be considered our fourth greatest war. Many young men of our community served, a great per cent being veterans of World War II. Eighteen of the first to go were members of an El Paso reserve unit, Battery A, 831st Field Artillery. That unit used Michel's Hall for an armory, and the members were called individually to serve another two years just as they were once more getting established in their jobs and businesses. In addition, three or four other El Pasoans were called back to active duty as members of the 144th Battalion of the 44th Division's Anti-Aircraft Artillery, a Bloomington armory unit. A host of others served by enlistment or by draft.

Although we had a large number in service, only Donald Miller of Kappa lost his life. He was wounded in Korea Christmas day, 1951 and died of his wounds months later after being returned to various hospitals in the United States. Thus, our local casualties were on a much lower percentage basis than in World War II.

Women served for the first time in the armed services during World War II and the Korean conflict. Prior to 1942 when the Woman's Army Corps was formed, with comparable branches in the Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, women had served only in the Army and Navy Nurses' Corps. Some of our girls attained considerable rank; Capt. Nellie Crout lost her life in New Guinea while serving as head nurse of the 13th General Hospital. Major Ruth Shadewaldt had two overseas tours of duty and is still in service as a career soldier. The list of women who served is a long one in addition to the two above:

Leonora Belle Altum, Waves
 Lt. (j.g.) Mary Jane Beshers, Waves
 Mary Coyle, Waves
 Lt. Margaret M. Fruin, Waves
 Eleanor Desmond, Waves
 Lt. Dorothy R. Curtiss, A. N. C.
 Elizabeth Jean Kindig, Waves
 Lt. Erma Jean Kingdon, A. N. C.
 Dorothy Lewis, Waves
 Rose Mary Bennett, Waves
 Marjorie Martin, Waves
 Wilma Rose Miller, Waves
 Lt. Mary K. Owens, A. N. C.
 Charlotte Schofield, Waves
 Sgt. Ruth F. Schuler, U. S. M. C.
 Lt. Norma Surgens Schuler, A. N. C.
 Ens. Ruth Webb, N. N. C.
 Lt. Liona E. Whitmer, A. N. C.
 Jeanette T. Kyser, Waves
 Mary E. Fenton Janick, Waves
 Betty Hicks, post war W. A. C.

El Paso is proud of its youthful citizens who have served in the armed forces in our wars, and each time they have defended the nation successfully. Could Edward Fitz Patrick speak to them from his grave in Gabetown Cemetery about their service to the government he helped establish long ago in the American Revolution, he might smile and say, "You youngsters have done a good job."

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. We quote an interesting letter on Capt. McCutcheon of Panola:

Treasure Island, Nassau, March 11, 1940.

I am greatly interested in Capt. David R. McCutcheon of Panola, Illinois, and am sorry to say I do not know if he may be a relative, but he is not, to my knowledge, a close one. My father, John Barr McCutcheon was captain of Company K, 15th Indiana Volunteers. He and his father once spelled their names "en" instead of "eon." Wish I could claim a relationship, but I do not know if (father) had any near relative named David.

John T. McCutcheon.

2. Frank C. Cleary is a relative of the Frank S. Cleary of the 26th Infantry Division above mentioned. See Chapter 17 for an article on Frank C. Cleary.
3. An article on General Duff is included in Chapter 17.

CHAPTER 17

Our Sons in Name and Fame

NOTE: Some information for this chapter was secured through questionnaires. Several recipients did not reply, thus certain omissions will be noted. We want to thank those who so kindly replied to our request for information.

Judge Horace H. Baker

Judge Baker was a friendly, neighborly man who could quote Sir William Blackstone's *Commentaries* one minute, and tell a side-splitting yarn the next. He never argued in anything but a kindly tone, and never spoke ill of anyone.

The Judge's father, Joseph G. Baker, was born in the parish of Meare, Somersetshire, England, on April 12, 1849, the eldest of eight children. He was three times the state president and in 1910 and 1911 the national president of the National Federation of Retail Implement Vehicle Dealers. He was an organizer and the vice-president of the Woodford County National Bank, and served as mayor of El Paso, as did his son, the only father and son to serve as the city's chief executive.

Horace H. Baker was born in Buckley, Illinois, April 14, 1884, and with his parents came to El Paso in 1885. He was graduated from the Jefferson Park High School in 1901 and completed two years at Morgan Park Military Academy. He then entered the University of Michigan and received his L. L. B. degree in 1906. He then entered the law practice at El Paso and on November 25, 1909 he married Glenna M. Bonar.

Judge Baker was the first circuit judge to be elected from Woodford County in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, composed of Logan, McLean, Woodford, Livingston and Ford counties at that time, and he served in this office from 1936 to 1939. He had previously served as the state's attorney of Woodford County from 1932 to 1936.

On April 18, 1911, Mr. Baker was elected mayor of El Paso and served three consecutive two-year terms. At the time of his election he was twenty-six years and four days of age, the youngest man ever elected mayor of El Paso. Following his municipal service, he was elected president of the El Paso Township High School board and served for ten years, from 1919 to 1929. He served as director of the First National Bank, now the El Paso National, for twenty-seven years, and with his son, Frederick Bonar Baker, formed the law firm of Baker & Baker until his death on March 2, 1947. The Judge served



JUDGE HORACE H. BAKER, (1884-1947).

on the Methodist church board and as a member of El Paso Golf Club, the Illinois State and Woodford County Bar Associations and the El Paso Kiwanis Club. As a Mason, he was active in both the Knights Templar and the Shrine. He was a prominent member of the Democratic Party and gave it his unswerving support.

One facet of Judge Baker's sparkling life, which we cannot overlook, was his story telling ability. He was the most popular of El Paso toastmasters and served many years in this capacity at almost every civic dinner. In all probability, he inherited a talent from his father who also enjoyed a reputation as a story teller and entertainer.

Joseph L. Baker was the Judge's only brother, and Florence Baker Burtis his only sister. Joe Baker was a noted athlete who still holds the Woodford County record, 48 feet and five inches in the shot put,¹ established in 1914, and he would have been a member of the American Olympic team but for his unfortunate death in a train wreck at Porter, Indiana in 1916. Frederick B. Baker still carries on the law practice under the name of Baker & Baker.

Robert A. Barracks

Robert A. Barracks, newspaperman, was born in El Paso on October 2, 1898, the son of Alfred Reuben and Lillian Pleasants Barracks. In 1907, weakened by scarlet fever, Robert was taken to New Mexico for his health. There the family lived in a copper mining camp sixty miles from a railroad, supplies coming in by mule train. "It was a great experience," Mr. Barracks now relates; "The men wore six-shooters, Indians still broke out of nearby reservations to cause trouble, and there were about sixty rattlesnakes to the mile."

The family then moved to Tuscola, Illinois, where Robert continued his education in the fourth grade, being in the seventh when his folks moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. While on the track team there, he held state records in the 100 yard dash and the high jump. Robert Barracks graduated from El Paso Township High School with the class of 1916 after he came back to El Paso with his parents. They moved to Decatur in 1917, where Robert attended but did not graduate from James Milliken University. Good in English composition, he collaborated on musical shows and was put on the staff of the *Millidek*. Money was scarce, so he got a job as a cub reporter with the *Decatur Review*, starting to work on his birthday, October 2, 1921. He had found the work for which he was fitted, and exactly three years later on another birthday, he became the city editor.

Continuing to think his birthday was his lucky day, Robert was married on October 2, 1925. Soon after, he became news editor of the *Review* and held that position until 1934 when he became managing editor of the *East St. Louis Journal* which the *Review* had purchased, taking over the job on October 2.

Barracks was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry of the Army Reserve Corps, after serving three years in the Illinois National Guard when he had been Decatur's entry as lightweight boxing champion of the 33rd Division. However, when World War II broke out, he joined the U. S. Navy and was commissioned a lieutenant in that service, reporting to New York as press officer for the naval district there. He graduated from the advanced Naval Intelligence School, did anti-submarine patrol work, and handled the navy publicity in the raising of the Normandie, the launching of the U. S. S. Missouri, and the repatriation of the Japanese. In 1944 he was ordered to Pearl Harbor as press officer for Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. On January 1, 1945 Barracks went to Guam as media officer in charge of press and

magazine coverage of the Pacific. Following Iwo Jima, he was released to inactive duty and resumed his old newspaper position at East St. Louis.

On June 25, 1951 he was recalled to active duty in the navy with the rank of commander and was assigned the Head News Branch, Office of Information, with offices in the Pentagon at Washington, D. C. He is still on active duty.

Robert A. Barracks was always active in civic affairs. He organized the East St. Louis Traffic Council, served on the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and was a member of the original Bi-State Authority. He is a member of numerous clubs and organizations in East St. Louis and Washington, D. C.

Eli Bennett

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Bennett, leaving Trowbridge, England to start a new life in America, reached the Atlantic seacoast in 1849. They first stopped in Chicago, and later came to Metamora, from which place they moved to El Paso in 1859, only three years after the first buildings were erected. It is believed he had previously helped John Bennett build the Union House, El Paso's first hotel, in which Eli's wife Elizabeth opened the first hat shop in town. Mr. Bennett was a carpenter and an expert cabinet maker.

While still an English subject, Eli Bennett was asked to repair the royal chair in Westminster Abbey upon which Queen Victoria was to be crowned June 28, 1838. Proud of his work, in a prankish mood Bennett picked up his wife and placed her in the historic chair just one day before the coronation ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett were invited to the Queen's coronation. Mrs. Bennett's brother, John Head, was organist at the London Baptist Church where the famous Charles Spurgeon preached. Mr. Bennett is listed in our appendix of pioneers.

Frank C. Cleary

Frank C. Cleary was born October 23, 1903, on the old Cleary farm between Gridley and El Paso, the son of Michael J. and Julia Hanifin Cleary. His grandfather, Thomas Cleary, came from Ireland and settled one mile west of the present Cleary homestead where Frank's father was born. Frank's mother was a school teacher when she married. Her parents also came from Ireland and lived in Rock Island before settling on a farm northwest of Gridley.

Young Frank was known as "Foxy" to his playmates at the old Grandview School, at high school in El Paso, and at St. Viators at Bourbonnais, Illinois. He had attended both McKinley and Jefferson Park schools in El Paso, but was graduated at St. Viator's in June of 1921. In August, 1922, Frank snapped enough sweet corn to pay his fare to Washington, D. C. and enter Georgetown University. With the personal help of two sympathetic congressmen, after three and one-half years he graduated with a B. S. degree in Foreign Trade.

He then joined the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce where for a year he worked in the Commercial Intelligence Division. On February 2, 1927, Frank accepted a position with his present employer, Warner-Hudnut Inc., and after a year of training he began traveling, setting up agencies in most of the West Indian Islands, and every city of consequence in Central America and the north part of South America.

In 1930 Mr. Cleary went to the Orient and established headquarters in Shanghai, which later became a manufacturing branch. From Shanghai he covered China, Japan and the Philippines. In 1935, in company with his wife and their first child, he made a trip around the world, paying a visit to each of the company's European branches. In 1938 he made a survey of New Zealand where he established a manufacturing branch, and then was transferred to Australia. He lived in Sydney where he already had an organization and from where he could supervise the New Zealand branches. In 1940 he was recalled to New York to become assistant to the president, a position he held until that gentleman retired in 1946.

He then moved to Toronto, Canada, where he shouldered the responsibilities as president of three Canadian companies. In the summer of 1953 he received another promotion, this time to the office of Director British Commonwealth and Far Eastern Operations, charged with supervising branches in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and South Africa. He handles this huge task from offices in New York City where he lives, and is currently on another round the world business trip.

One of Frank C. Cleary's Canadian admirers made a statement that seems ideal for closing this biographical account:

His pyramid of success stands as a symbol for what can be accomplished with hard, honest, effort and loyalty to your position. Probably no more than a half-dozen men have the global experience in the field of cosmetics as has Mr. Cleary.

The Right Reverend Monsignor Thomas Cleary

This outstanding clergyman was born in El Paso, Illinois in 1889, the son of Michael J. and Julia Hanifin Cleary. After graduating from high school he taught for a time in the one-room country schools of that day. Following this he attended Notre Dame University where he received A. B. and M. A. degrees, (1910), St. Viator Seminary where he received his Ph.D. degree, (1914), and the University of Illinois, (1931). He was ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Church in 1914, and from 1918 to 1929 he served as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Westville, Illinois. For the ten year period of 1929-1939 his religious work was confined to Champaign County, Illinois, where he taught religion for the Newman Foundation at the University of Illinois. From 1939 to 1943 Father Cleary was the spiritual head of St. Joseph's Church in Kewanee, Illinois, and since 1943 he has been

pastor and teacher at St. John the Baptist's Church in Bradford, Illinois.

History is a subject that has always appealed to Father Cleary, and he has done extensive research in that field. Welfare work has demanded much of his time too, and he is a member of the Illinois Welfare Association and the Illinois State Historical Society. In addition to translating two volumes of Catholic historical source material for the Catholic Historical Society of Washington, and writing numerous historical articles for magazines and newspapers, Father Cleary in 1947 completed his *Catholic Historical Society Book: An Outline History of Illinois*. In recognition of his ability as pastor, teacher and historian, the Roman Catholic Church on October 21, 1950, bestowed upon him the honor and title of the Right Reverend Monsignor.

Clay Clement

Clay Clement, actor and playwright, was born in the winter of 1864 on the old Geiger homestead six miles northwest of El Paso which was known as the Maple Grove Farm. He was the son of Christian and Sarah Geiger, and his real name was Clement Geiger. He had a brother named Julian who retired from farming and lived in El Paso at 50 West Second Street until his death.

Young Clement Geiger intended to become a lawyer and attended the University of Chicago. After he had been there some time, his father made a trip to Chicago to find out just how well his law student son was getting along. He was getting along very well indeed, but on the stage instead of in law school! He was playing in the production *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. That episode ended young Geiger's law schooling, but it was the beginning of a stage career, and his rise in that field was rapid. In those days many considered the theatre a questionable occupation and not a glamorous one.

Clay Clement traveled from coast to coast and to distant Australia, for he was not only a star of the stage, he was also a successful playwright. His most noted play was called *The New Dominion*, which was written one summer when the author spent his vacation at Bellflower, a farm located only a half-mile from the home where he had lived as a child. Clement wrote most of this play while sitting under a tree in the apple orchard, and the work received wide acclaim. Three of his old El Paso friends, George R. Curtiss, Isaac J. Jenkins Jr. and Harry Campbell persuaded him to bring the play from Peoria to El Paso and put it on in our fine Opera House. So on February 21, 1895 *The New Dominion* showed here with Clay Clement in the leading role, and the *El Paso Journal* called it "the most artistic piece of acting and impersonation ever given in our city."

In the 1890's Clement was performing in a number of Shakespearean plays, some of his best roles being in Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth and King Lear. About the turn of the century Clay Clement was hitting his stride. His own play *The New Dominion* still had

strong box office appeal, and he had written and produced a new play called *Sam Houston*, a venture in which he was associated with John McGovern and Jesse Edison. He was working in one play after another: *In Hampton Roads*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *The Bells*, *The Southern Gentleman* and *Ping Pong*. In 1910, while at the zenith of his career, it suddenly ended. He was in Kansas City, Missouri, impersonating the difficult character of the *Drain Man* in the play entitled *The Servant of the House*, a production of the Henry Miller Associated Players Company, when he was fatally stricken with uremic poisoning. He died in Paris, Texas, and was buried there. He left a son, Clement Geiger Jr., who resides in New York City and is known as Clay Clement Jr. He is connected with the radio and television business.

Before closing this sketch, we should like to tell an apocryphal story concerning one of Clay Clement's early rehearsals. He was a hard man to please. To him, a sound effect was more than an effect; it represented the very apex of human ingenuity. One of the plays called for a thunderstorm, and in the rehearsal a stage hand was having difficulty in producing the kind of thunder that Clement demanded. Time and again he tried, employing all tricks known and several previously unknown. So preoccupied was Clement with his seemingly futile task of making his frantic helper create exactly what he wanted that he was oblivious to a rising storm outside. Suddenly there came a crash of thunder that was a corker.

"No, No!" roared Clement. "That's not it yet!"

Leaving the noisemaking paraphernalia and stepping out from behind the stage props, the exhausted stagehand strode up to Clement and hissed: "That was *real* thunder you just heard! Why, God Almighty himself can't please you!"

Harry Dewitt Cook

Although Harry Dewitt Cook did not live in El Paso, he did move from a farm near Hudson into Kappa, and his post-war activities from 1865 to 1871 had a direct bearing on veterans of the area. A native of New York state, he came to Hudson in 1851, and was living in Kappa shortly after the railroad came through and established the town, where he became a grain dealer and station master. By 1860 he had extensive land holdings in both McLean and Woodford Counties, and success came his way in politics too. The election of November 6, 1860, which sent Lincoln to the White House, also sent Harry D. Cook into the Illinois General Assembly as a member from the Forty-second District. No sooner had the session convened, when the Civil War was declared. Harry Cook left the legislature to become the captain of Company "G" which represented Woodford County in the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, a unit formed by Col. T. Lyle Dickey at Ottawa in August, 1861. Attaining the rank of major, Cook was mustered out of the service in 1864 after thirty-nine months of campaigning.

Cook at once campaigned for the legislature and was elected in 1864, taking his seat on January 2, 1865 when the Twenty-fourth General Assembly convened. It was the second time this member of the Republican Party was elected from a county that had always favored the Democratic Party.

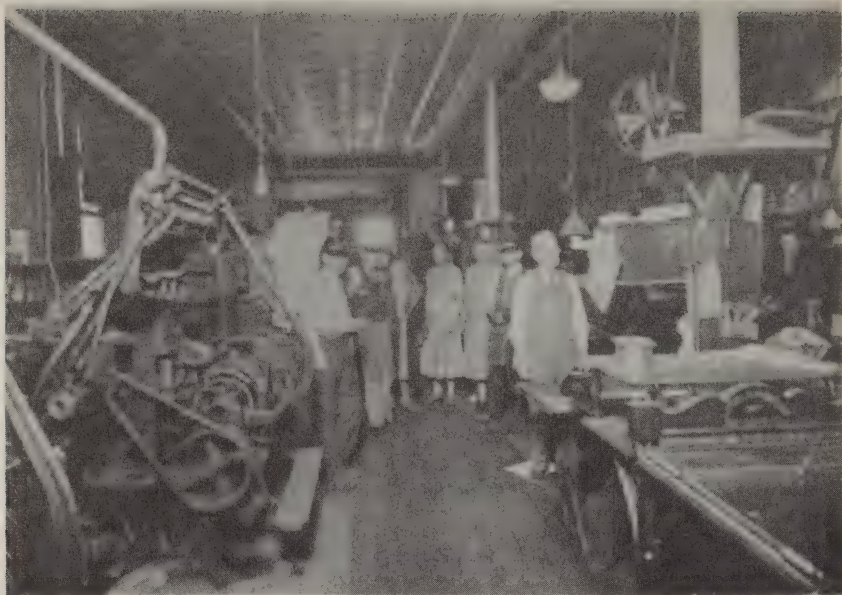
The legislature, pleased with the performance of the Sanitary Bureau in aiding soldiers in the field, voted favorably February 16, 1865 on a bill that would provide a state agency designed especially to aid and benefit the volunteers of Illinois. Governor Richard J. Oglesby was authorized by the new law to appoint and commission military agents "to be stationed at such places, within the rebellious states or elsewhere, as in their opinion, will best promote the interests of the volunteer forces of the United States Army from this state." Major Cook, being one of the nine men appointed and commissioned, now became a colonel. He and another colonel by the name of Baumgardner spent the spring of 1865 in New York where they attended to the needs of Illinois soldiers in the various hospitals. Later Colonel Cook was sent to Washington, D. C.

In Washington Col. Cook's job required an unusual amount of ability, tact and energy. It involved representing the state of Illinois in the complicated task of collecting bounty money for Civil War veterans, prior to the formation of the Grand Army of the Republic, the veteran's organization finally assuming this and other service work. During the six years Col. Cook was the veteran representative, he collected over \$800,000, \$325,000 for the state and over \$500,000 for Illinois soldiers and their families. Harry Dewitt Cook never returned to Kappa from Washington, but he had attained the highest rank of any local soldier who served in the Civil War.

George R. Curtiss

George Curtiss was a natural born newspaper man who gave El Paso a fine weekly publication subscribers read avidly. It was "meaty" and well balanced and free from sensationalism. The man responsible for *The El Paso Journal's* popularity and reputation was born in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1859, the son of Samuel T. and Kate Curtiss. He came to El Paso in 1864 with his parents, attended our local schools, and in 1889 married Catherine McLafferty, the ceremony taking place in Hutchinson, Kansas. One child, a son named Cedric, died before he reached his second birthday. Mrs. Curtiss passed away in 1935, to be followed eleven years later by her husband.

El Paso was always "home" to George R. Curtiss except for brief periods when he worked at the printer's trade in Peoria, Streator and Kansas City, Missouri. Being ambitious to launch a business of his own, Mr. Curtiss prevailed upon a friend to be his partner in establishing and publishing *The Saturday Review*, a newspaper which they sold to the *El Paso Journal* in the early 1880's. Curtiss then became associated with the *Journal*, and in 1889 he and Robert J. Evans



GEORGE R. CURTISS AND HIS EL PASO JOURNAL FORCE ABOUT 1932. L TO R: C. F. CURTISS, WALTER L. BAILEY, MRS. G. R. CURTISS, MRS. MYRTLE KAVLI, MRS. CARRIE TUCKER, ROY STUCKEY AND GEORGE R. CURTISS.

purchased it. Mr. Evans finally retired from the firm, a move which left Mr. Curtiss the sole owner and manager until his death.

George Curtiss was a man characterized by mental alertness and farseeing enthusiasm in every program which promoted civic progress, with an especial interest in the betterment of El Paso's educational institutions. At the time of his death on May 2, 1946, he had been a continuous member of all the local Masonic bodies for about fifty-five years, and of the Eastern Star since its organization. He was a charter member of the El Paso Golf Club and the old El Paso Commercial Club, and a leader in each. He was always one of the best boosters of the Fair, and served for years as secretary of the El Paso District Agricultural Board, a position of much detail work and responsibility.

Mr. Curtiss was an early automobile owner and pioneered the good roads movement which followed the general acceptance of motor transportation. He was one of the first in the state to oil roads to eliminate the dust hazard and make a surface which would turn the water and thus eliminate the deep mud on dirt roads. He was a member of the committee which marked the old Corn Belt Trail, now U. S. Highway 24, across the state of Illinois. Before the numbering system was adopted, he and the others drove across the state nailing up signs with an ear of corn on them to mark this first trail of its kind in our area.

George Curtiss refused to publish many items of news because he would not injure the reputation of any citizen in his paper, even though the facts were clear. Yet, he never ducked a verbal argument and never hesitated to take the progressive side on civic issues, even though it might cost him subscriptions. He was a "dry" in all the local option arguments. He boosted the laying of pavements, the building of new schools, and worked hard to get the hard roads constructed through El Paso, when many of his contemporaries thought these improvements would bankrupt the town. El Paso owes much to the memory of George R. Curtiss, El Paso booster, long-range planner and optimist.

Clay Mervin Donner

Clay Donner was born in El Paso, Illinois on May 13, 1891, the son of Peter and Anna Risser Donner. He attended the Jefferson Park school, and graduated from that high school with the class of 1909. The following two years he attended the University of Illinois. He married Marie E. Oster on November 23, 1930, and to them were born daughter Joyce Ann and son Clay Allen Donner. Clay Sr. worked as a mechanic for two years, and from 1913 to 1915 he was an automobile and machinery salesman for his father and uncle who had formed the Donner & Risser Company.

From 1915 to 1917 he was secretary of the Indiana Mutual Automobile Insurance Company of La Porte, Indiana. From June 19, 1917 when he first enlisted in the Illinois National Guard, he rose steadily in rank. He served in the American Expeditionary Force in World War I as a first lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps with the 33rd Division, and he remained in the service after returning home. He was promoted successively through the grades until on March 30, 1940 he was made Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General in the Military and Naval Department of the State of Illinois. In the second World War he was assigned to state selective service work, with headquarters in Springfield, Illinois, then Columbus, Ohio, and with final headquarters in Washington, D. C. In September, 1947 he was relieved from active duty and reappointed as Assistant Adjutant General for Illinois with the rank of Brigadier General. Donner retired in the summer of 1951, and on October 24 he became Director of Civilian Defense for Springfield and Sangamon County.

Brigadier General Donner is a Mason, Knight Templar and a Shriner. His home address is 805 South Glenwood Avenue in Springfield, Illinois.

Robinson E. Duff

Major General Robinson Earl Duff, Chief of the Army Security Agency, was born two miles west of El Paso on the place known as the Frank Koerner farm, on January 18, 1895, the son of Robinson Cunningham and Katherine Ida Duff. His father grew up in Pontiac

and his mother was born in Eureka where her parents, the Andrew Gerberichs then lived. General Duff recalls that his father was in the drayage business when they lived in El Paso at 29 East First Street, and that he had one bay team which performed the additional duty of hauling the city fire engine. Because of that team's especial training for this, Con Duff was very proud of them.

While General Duff was still young his parents moved to Wolcott, Indiana, but Robinson Duff Jr. made a number of trips back to El Paso to visit his grandparents who retired from the farm to live in town. After graduating from high school in Wolcott, young Duff attended Purdue University for two years. On the 15th of August, 1917, he was commissioned a second lieutenant and assigned to active duty with the 46th Infantry Regiment of the Ninth Division. After the first World War he was transferred with his regiment to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where he served as assistant post adjutant. A year later he became Assistant Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the R. O. T. C. of the University of Oklahoma in Norman. In October, 1923, he went to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii where he served with the 35th Infantry, returning to the States in 1927.

He completed the company officer's course at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then served as an instructor there for three years. He next entered the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in August, 1931, and completed a two-year course, after which he was assigned as an assistant instructor of the Arizona National Guard. In July, 1935, he entered the Army War College, from which he graduated the following June, and then served as a battalion commander in the 13th Infantry at Fort Devens. In July, 1938 he was assigned to the G-4 section of the War Department General Staff in Washington, D. C.

As a colonel, Duff assumed the command of the 398th Infantry Regiment in September, 1942, a part of the 100th Division at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. In May, 1944, he was appointed as assistant commander of the highly-trained 10th Mountain Division, and went into Italy with it in November, 1944. In April, 1945, while commanding a special force known as Task Force Duff in the final phases of the northern Italy campaign, Brigadier General Duff was wounded and hospitalized. Upon his recovery, he was transferred through the United States to the Pacific Theatre of War, where he served in the Philippine Islands. In August, 1945 he was in Japan with the occupation forces, and in July, 1946, he was again sent to the European Theatre where he served in the occupation as assistant commander of the Ninth Infantry Division. In October he was assistant chief of staff G-5 of the Third Army in Europe, and in April, 1947 he assumed command of the Frankfurt Military Post.

This native of El Paso returned to the States in May, 1949, to become the deputy director of the Plans and Operations Division of

the General Staff of the U. S. Army in Washington, D. C. He assumed command of the Army Security Agency on August 1, 1951. Major General Duff holds the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Purple Heart. He also holds the Brazilian War Medal and the Italian Military Cross. His home at present is in Falls Church, Virginia.

George G. Evans

For quite a number of years the Northern Illinois State Teachers College at DeKalb, Illinois, has been turning out athletes who have made competitive events more than interesting for competing teams. Much of this credit goes to George "Chick" Evans, former coach and now Director of Athletics. The DeKalb mentor seems to have a sixth sense for detecting hidden talent and an extraordinary ability for developing that talent, but Chick Evans would be the last man to admit this.

George was born in El Paso on June 18, 1900, and after living for a time in Peoria with his parents, he moved back to El Paso and attended school here from the fifth grade through his junior year in high school. He recalls playing shinny with an old tin can and sticks cut from trees in the year 1912, when Teddy Roosevelt ran for president on the Bull Moose ticket. The kids picked political names for their opposing sides, and Evans says there were many bruised and bloodied shins as a result of those frantic games.



EL PASO'S 1915-16 HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM. L. TO R: GEORGE EVANS, H. F. BOYD, DELMAR ELTING, ERNEST PATTON, HURD ADAMS, WADE WOLK, VIRGIL GORDON, DR. SIDNEY P. KINGDON AND FRANK H. SHUMAN.

He recalls with pride a basketball team of which he was a member, the high school team of 1916. Lacking a gymnasium, this team played in the building now occupied by the El Paso Produce Company on Front Street, with the spectators all seated at one end of the playing floor because of lack of space, with chicken wire backstop and wall allowing them to see the game. Evans also played on the high school's football team in 1916 and 1917, and with Sidney P. (Perry) Kingdon won the county tennis doubles title.

For his advanced education, George Evans attended the University of Illinois and the University of Iowa, being graduated from the former. His present home is in DeKalb.

Mack Evans

This professional organist, choral director and vocal coach is the son of the late L. K. Evans, former El Paso banker and worker in the Baptist Church. At an early age Mack displayed an unusual interest in music and it was decided that this should be his vocation. He attended Knox College at Galesburg, Illinois; received his master's degree at Harvard University, and later was awarded an honorary doctor's degree in music from Knox. In 1917 Mack demonstrated his skill as an accomplished organist when he played first High Mass for Christmas midnight services at Camiers, Pas-de-Calais, France, where he had served for a year overseas in the American Expeditionary Force. In 1921 he directed Thurlow Lieurance's Little Symphony Orchestra in the Canadian Rockies circuit, and for two years, 1923-1925, he was organist and choirmaster at Christ Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was a theatre organist in both Chicago and Boston periodically for four years.

Although not a Catholic, Mr. Evans in 1931 paid a visit to Solesmes Benedictine Abbey in France, for Gregorian services and consultation work in musical literature. He was also invited back to Camiers, France, as guest organist for High Mass. From 1925 to 1945 this gifted musician served as director of music on the faculty at the University of Chicago, contributing greatly to the cause of musical advancement and appreciation in Rockefeller Memorial Chapel. Working with Father Hoover of the Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, Mack distinguished himself for certain liturgical and dramatic performances. He helped translate medieval mystery plays from manuscripts of Limoges and Rouen Cathedrals, and in 1941, while a guest conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, he found time for editing and translating the American edition of the "Requiem" by Faure.

In 1945 Mack Evans attracted the attention of Fred Waring's orchestra in New York City, where he was editing assistant to Robert Shaw of City Center Theatre and Carnegie Hall. Evans was back in France in 1945 and 1946, where, laboring on the American University faculty, he directed G. I. choruses in performances at Biarritz Casino, Theatre Royal. He was chairman of the concerts committee engaging French

artists, and by invitation of the Bishop of Bayonne he played three Gregorian High Masses in Bayonne Cathedral. We next hear of Evans in Vienna, where he collaborated with the Vienna Academy of Music in directing the G. I. music school.

In 1946 and 1947 Mr. Evans was in California as director of choral music at Leland Stanford University. During his second year on the west coast he was visiting lecturer and conductor at the University of California at Los Angeles. There he conducted both chorus and orchestra, and lectured on the history and literature of church music.

In 1948 and 1949 Mack Evans was organist, accompanist and assistant to the director of the Boy's Town, Nebraska, choirs. He left Boy's Town to take over the position of Director of Music at the First Unitarian Church in Chicago, a church known for unexcelled musical standards. In addition to this work, he is at present engaged in the private coaching of singers, speakers and amateur theatrical productions.

Walter Rooke Evans

Welterweight wrestling champion of the world and middleweight wrestling champion of the world—both of these titles in the sports arena were once held by Walter "Pop" Evans, an El Pasoan who attained the top in his field of athletics.

Evans was born in El Paso on March 29, 1892, the son of Robert J. Evans, co-owner of the El Paso Journal at that time, and later national secretary of the Duroc-Jersey association and editor of their magazine. Walter's mother was Nellie Rooke who was born in England and came to America at the age of six with her parents, settling in Emporia, Kansas. Walter attended grammar school in El Paso and high school in Peoria, where he excelled in basketball, baseball, football and in wrestling.

With an unusually powerful physique, Walter studied the original style of wrestling under Farmer Burns and the world's champion, Frank Gotch. With his interest and knowledge of the sport, he accompanied his father to Chicago in 1908 and began wrestling in athletic clubs, taking on all comers at the welterweight limit of 148 pounds. Finally Evans got a title match with the welterweight champion, Tom Rolowitz on February 16, 1912, and took away the title Rolowitz had held for seven years. Evans was never defeated in the welterweight class, but he outgrew the weight while serving in the army from 1917 to 1919.

Evans enlisted in the army April 6, 1917, the day the war was declared, leaving his job as wrestling coach at the University of Illinois. He served as an instructor at the first Officer's Training Camp at Fort Sheridan, and was commissioned a second lieutenant and was assigned to the 61st Infantry Regiment of the 5th Division, and went overseas with this unit. He saw active duty in France, and after being wounded was sent back to the United States as an instructor in Stokes mortars and hand grenades at the Plattsburg, New York, Officer's



WALTER R. EVANS ABOUT 1915 WHEN HE WAS THE WORLD'S WELTER-WEIGHT WRESTLING CHAMPION. "FRIEND CLYDE" WAS C. L. TEGARD.

Training Camp. He was then assigned to Brown University as Commanding Officer of the R. O. T. C. unit there. He resigned from the service in 1919 to take a position in coaching at the University of Pennsylvania.

Walter then resumed wrestling as a middleweight, and won the world title from Johnny Meyers, which he held for a year and eight months, Meyers regaining his title from Evans. Evans continued wrestling for some time, but gradually turned to refereeing and promoting. Later he assisted his father on the latter's Duroc-Jersey paper. In 1935 Evans turned his attention to golf, and since that date has been a member of the National Professional Golfers Association, attached to the southeastern section. In 1949 he won the senior championship at Atlanta, Georgia, and was runner-up in 1950, and again won that sectional title in the championship tournament at Birmingham, Alabama, in 1951. At present Walter is connected with the Columbus, Mississippi, Country Club.

Reverend Leroy R. S. Ferguson

Leroy Ferguson was born October 19, 1876 in the house which is now 115 East Fifth Street in El Paso. He attended and was graduated from the old East Side High School, later named the McKinley School. He was ordained a minister in the Methodist church, serving his first

pastorate at Roanoke, Illinois. Five years later he was ordained in the Episcopal church, serving at Hudson, Wisconsin, and from there he served in the Church of the Messiah at St. Paul, Minnesota, for thirty-five years. He was commissioner of education in St. Paul for two terms, remodeling forty-five schools and building fourteen new ones.

During World War I he became an overseas Chaplain, and for a time was head of all overseas religious services in the army. Following his discharge, he served pastorates in Lead and Huron in South Dakota. Since 1944 he has been Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church in Deadwood, South Dakota, completing his fiftieth year in the Episcopal Church. He still finds time for civic affairs, and has just completed a term as president of the Deadwood Rotary Club.

Elias S. Fursman

One of the men who helped make the country surrounding El Paso what it is today was Elias S. Fursman, who came to Panola Township about 1865, when he sold some Livingston County land and purchased forty acres two miles north of El Paso. With this modest acreage as a nucleus, this progressive farmer eventually owned the quarter section.

Fursman was born in New York State, August 16, 1837, the son of William and Christine Fursman, who were of English ancestry. He came to Bloomington in 1855 and clerked for two years in a store. It was his fruit and nursery business that directed attention to Elias Fursman after he settled the forty acre farm. There was great need for beautifying the prairie farms with fruit and shade trees, such as he produced. He then pioneered in tile manufacturing, forming the company which dug the old El Paso tile pits on the southeast side of town, only recently filled in. In 1874 he was state agent for the scrapers pulled by horses and an ingenious implement used in making the open ditches needed to drain prairie ponds and sloughs. He and L. S. Straight began the making of brick where the greenhouse now stands, and in 1887 he constructed several of the brick buildings on Front Street, and that east side block was thereafter called the "Fursman" block.

His interest in agriculture and the development of farmland never waned, and in 1880 he had much to do with the creation of the Woodford County Agricultural Board, and for twenty years served as an officer and director. When the Illinois State Fair was held in Peoria in 1892, Fursman was given sole charge of the Woodford County agricultural exhibit and it won first prize in the northern Illinois division.

A few of our real old timers can recall the Illinois agricultural exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 on the Jackson Park grounds under a great dome, an immense mural depicting how a typical Illinois farmstead looked. That mural, frame and all, was made of grasses and grains grown on farms in El Paso and Panola Townships. *The Chicago Inter-Ocean* called this display "wonderfully picturesque and artistic." It must have been, for the minutely detailed mural was thereafter taken to the Paris, France, Exposition.

Fursman was then given charge of the Illinois exhibit at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, New York, and Iowa selected him to superintend its exhibit at the 1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. Peoria businessmen hired him to arrange and manage their corn carnivals. Being a forceful speaker, Fursman was in demand at county institutes, his favorite subject dealing with corn growing and corn cultivation. In this he was well ahead of his day, as he had exhibited and judged corn samples upon many occasions. He died while away in Chicago in 1907, but his body was returned to El Paso and buried in Evergreen Cemetery by that of his father, who had died while in El Paso with his son.

Dr. Robert Earl Gordon

Dr. R. E. Gordon was the oldest son of Dr. Jerry Taylor and Mary Annas Gordon and was born in Carlyle, Illinois, September 5, 1873. Scotch and English blood flowed through the veins of his paternal grandparents.

He was graduated from the Carlyle High School, McKendree College and the Missouri Medical University, now Washington University, receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine from the latter institution in 1893. A total of twenty-eight doctors rounded out the professional side of his family. His uncle, William Powell Gordon, M. D., with whom he lived to maturity, introduced him to the intricacies of internal medicine.

Late in 1893, Dr. Gordon, traveling by horse and buggy, arrived in Woodford County where he set up his first practice in Benson, Illinois. He had the medical teaching of his grandfather, Dr. James Gordon: "If you do no good, be sure that you do no harm." This remained with him all his life.

On July 8, 1894 he was married to Della C. Chappelle of Rolla, Missouri, to whom were born four children: Virgil C., Noel E., Robert Stanley and Virginia Gordon Wiese. Dr. Gordon opened his office in El Paso for the practice of medicine on January 1, 1895 on the second floor of the building at 15 West Front Street, but his office was later moved to his well-known building at 52 North Central Street, Centennial headquarters in 1954.

This modern-minded doctor was one of the first four men in El Paso to purchase an automobile. He often boasted in late years that he had then owned and driven fifty-five automobiles in his fifty-eight years of practicing medicine, but the doctor retained six horses and three buggies until 1915, eleven years after he purchased the first car. This was not only good travel insurance in the days of mud roads, but he hated to part with those equine friends. El Paso had early adopted the automobile, and in 1913, with a population of 1,470, there were 104 automobiles within the city limits.

Dr. Gordon published an interesting little book in 1906 called *Little Buds of Promise*, which contained pictures of a great many of the first



DR. ROBERT EARL GORDON, (1873-1951).

thousand babies which the doctor had delivered in his first ten years of El Paso practice. His lifetime total was about 4,500, and there are today three generations in the community in several instances, all boasting they "were Dr. Gordon babies."

Another highlight in Dr. Gordon's activity-packed career was the establishment of the Han-Gon-Tan Tuberculosis Sanitarium, the first in Woodford County and perhaps the first such private institution in Illinois. It opened May 7, 1908, at 12 East First Street, and was patterned after the Ottawa Tent Colony. It had only a two-year run, but it

directed attention to the very serious need for tubercular treatments and served as a forerunner to the present County institutions.

Dr. Gordon was a civic-minded man. He was a Republican by birth but bipartisan in belief, serving his community as mayor, alderman, bank director and president, director and president of both high school and grade school boards, and was president of both the local Golf Club and Kiwanis Club.

In 1901 he founded the El Paso Telephone Company, an institution of which he was president and general manager for a half-century. His telephone experience was responsible for his becoming President, Secretary and lifetime director of the Illinois Telephone Association, President of the State Independent Toll Clearing Company, National Director of the United States Independent Telephone Association, and a member of the Pioneer Telephone Association. As retiring president of the Illinois State Telephone Association, Dr. Gordon said: "Let us learn as we go, not forget what we know, never be satisfied, but give our patrons full knowledge so that all may progress,—UPWARD!

The doctor served on the staffs of the Bloomington hospitals, and was a member of the McLean and Woodford County Medical Societies, and the 50-Year Club of the American Medical Association. He was affiliated with the Masonic bodies, the O. E. S., M. W. A., Royal Neighbors, Knights of Pythias, the Court of Honor and the El Paso Federated Church.

He died quietly and without serious prior illness at his home on November 16, 1951.

Very Reverend Murray Vincent Haas

Murray V. Haas, son of Ralph B. Haas and Anna Murray (Schlink) Haas, was born in El Paso on July 20, 1912, the second in a family of eight children of six boys and two girls. His father was of German descent, his mother of German-Irish. He attended the Pauley School northeast of El Paso for his grade school education, his high school work was obtained at St. Bede Academy at Peru, Illinois. Murray advanced to college education at the St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and his training in theology was at Kenrick Seminary. On June 6, 1937 the young man was ordained a priest at St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria, Illinois, by the Most Reverend J. H. Schlarman, D. D. Father Haas's first assignment was that of Chaplain, St. Joseph's, Wedron, Illinois, remaining there from June, 1937 to July 20, 1938. He then served until April 21, 1944 as Assistant Pastor, St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria, Illinois, and on April 21, 1944 he became pastor of that church, a position he still holds.

In recognition of Father Haas's splendid work, Pope Pius XII on June 14, 1948, elevated him to the rank of Very Reverend Monsignor. He now handles a multitude of jobs with zest and efficiency. He is Youth Director, Catholic Diocese of Peoria; Family Life Director of the same diocese; also its Cana Conference Director, Defensor Vinculi,

Matrimonial Court and a member of the Dicesan Grade and High School Board. He is Chaplain of the Peoria *Tobi Club* (Youth); Secretary, Diocesan Clergyman's Aid Society; Principal, St. Mary's Cathedral Grade School; instructor, the Academy of Our Lady High School, and a director of the Tonti Lodge, a summer camp for children.

Orville F. Haas

The office of Commercial Vice-President of the huge General Electric Company, is held today by a former El Paso boy, Orville F. Haas of Philadelphia and Bryn Mawr Court, Pennsylvania. Orville was born January 1, 1895 at Panola, the son of Peter W. Haas (not to be confused with the well-known plumber) and Mary (Hauck) Haas. He graduated from the El Paso High School in 1913, and in 1918 received his B. S. degree from the University of Illinois, where he majored in electrical engineering.

Orville joined the General Electric Company at Cleveland, Ohio as a lighting engineer, and was later transferred to the lamp department in New York City as assistant general manager. After ten years, he was transferred in 1938 to Philadelphia, a move which made him general manager of his department. In 1946 Orville was elected to his present position as Commercial Vice-President, with responsibility in all phases of the company's activities and products in the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia.

Mr. Haas married Ruth Nelson Sublett, a graduate of Vassar, in 1923, and to them three daughters were born: Julia Haas Webb, (Mt. Holyoke, 1948), Elizabeth Ann, (Vassar, 1950) and Mary Margaret. Mr. Haas belongs to a great number of clubs: University Club, Cleveland; Seaview Country Club, Absecon, New Jersey; the University Club, Aronimink Golf Club, Engineers Club and the Clinkers, all of Philadelphia, and the Honorary Marketing Fraternity and Lambda Mu Sigma. He is either a director or a trustee of: the Electrical Association of Philadelphia, Junior Achievement of Philadelphia, and Elfun Trusts of New York City.

Several years ago Orville purchased a 350 acre farm some thirty-five miles west of Philadelphia where he spends the summer and weekends the year around. He has riding horses, chickens, pigs, and a sizable herd of registered Aberdeen Angus cattle.

"Those El Paso days were happy ones," Orville now recalls. "As a youngster I'd practice my horseback riding, hoping to become good enough to join El Paso's own Kemp Sister's Wild West Shows. Then there were those bobsled parties out at Bullock's hill, carefree school days, enjoyment from books at the library; these memories will remain with me always, as will the memories of dear friends of my youth."

One of those friends recalls the time Orville took part in his first school play. Orville had a tremendous shotgun in his part in *Cricket on the Hearth* (the friend played the cricket) and he scared the rest of

the cast so much they forgot their lines because they feared his shotgun was loaded. He gave up acting.

George W. Krug, Sr.

George was born January 21, 1879 on the old Krug home place in Panola Township, the son of parents who were among our early settlers. On March 4, 1904 he married Louisa Bayer of Minonk. He lived his entire life on his farm.

In 1906 he began experimenting with seed corn, but he was seeking neither fame nor fortune. All he wanted was better corn for his 100-acre farm. He was such a modest man that he never displayed his corn at the county fair, perhaps because he didn't realize how good it was until he entered it in the county farm bureau yield test in 1919, and topped the field in 1920 and 1921 among 118 growers who entered these tests.

Mr. M. L. Moser of the Farm Bureau gave him much encouragement, because his corn had smooth kernels, a high protein and oil content and a low percentage of starch. His corn became known as the Krug utility-type corn, and as Krug Corn became famous. It was eagerly sought by farmers throughout the United States, and was shipped to South Africa, Romania and Argentina. It became the most widely-used open-pollinated corn in our area, beating all others on average yield by 6.6 bushels per acre. In 1926 Lester Pfister entered Krug corn in the Iowa yield tests and came away with top honors.

George started his seed line by mixing two strains called Improved World's Fair and Iowa Gold Mine with a couple of bushels of good-looking seed which he purchased at a farm sale; some think the latter was Reid's Yellow Dent. Weight, luster, smoothness and freedom from excessive starch were qualities George considered. At picking time, he made selections only from good standing stalks, choosing ears usually about four feet off the ground. He culled the seed in the winter, at first shelling all selected ears by hand.

Many persons finally grew and sold Krug Seed Corn, but George Krug did not collect a royalty from any of those using his name in producing "Krug Corn." George was a charter member of the Woodford County Farm Bureau. He died of a heart attack on July 25, 1942.

Dr. John S. Kyser

John Kyser was born in El Paso September 18, 1900, the son of John H. and Bessie (Shuman) Kyser. He attended El Paso schools, received his A. B. degree at the University of Michigan, and his Ph. D. at Louisiana State University. His graduate studying embraced two years at the University of Chicago, and in addition he studied at the University of California and at Germany's renowned Heidelberg University. John's formal academic training has been supplemented in a practical manner, since he has held positions with Marshall Field & Company, the United Fruit Company, the Pacific-Northwest Fruit Producers, and the Hudson Motor Car Company. His travels have

taken him into every state in the union, into most of inhabited Canada, into Central American countries including Mexico and most of Europe west of the Iron Curtain.

Dr. Kyser is head of the Department of Social Sciences, Northwestern State College of Louisiana at Natchitoches. His driving energy has led him to become a respected historian, writer, lecturer and photographer. A brief intended for this work had not arrived at press time.²

William A. Leary

William A. Leary was born in Panola fifty-eight years ago, but he spent much of his youth in El Paso after attending the Panola grade school, where he worked in a lumberyard, bank, and the post office, during and after high school days. After graduating with the class of 1912 he entered the University of Illinois, only to have that schooling interrupted by two years service in the A. E. F. in France with the 12th Base Hospital, where he and Mack Evans, also in this chapter, served together.

Returning to school at Illinois, he graduated in 1922 with a degree of B. S., having majored in Commerce and Business Administration. He then became associated with Arthur Anderson & Company as a



PANOLA GRADE SCHOOL GROUP IN 1906. THE BOY STANDING AT THE LEFT IS WILLIAM A. LEARY, NOW A C. P. A. WITH THE ETHYL CORPORATION. OTHERS INCLUDE JENNIE STIMPert, LENA WOLF, FLOYD CABLE, CLYDE KLUG, DAVE FISCHER, JOHN SADLER, CARL DODSON, ZIP WOLF, CHET KOCH, VIC WARD, FERNE SADLER, TILLIE FISCHER, FRANK WOLF AND FRANK STIMPert. THE TEACHER WAS MRS. ANNIE OSTLER SCHOFIELD.

Certified Public Accountant, and in 1930-1933 he took a position with the Associated Telephone and Telegraph Company, and as a special assistant to the Treasurer, spent three years in Bogota, Colombia.

Bill was back with Arthur Anderson & Company from 1934 to 1940, this time as manager of their New York offices. For the next nine years he was Comptroller-Treasurer for the United States Plywood Corporation. In February of 1950 he became Assistant and Consultant to the Comptroller of the United States Navy, this position bringing him into contact with hugh industrial and banking companies, unusually concerning Central and South America. Mr. Leary is married and has one daughter. The family now lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he is associated with the Ethyl Corporation.

Dr. Chalmers Oscar Patton

El Paso's oldest professional man was born on a farm four miles northwest of town on August 12, 1872. He attended our schools and received his degree in dentistry at the Chicago College of Dental Surgery. With the exception of one week spent in managing a dental office in Chenoa, "Charlie" Patton has dedicated his professional life of over sixty years to El Paso.

June 15, 1904 is an important date in Charlie's memory, for on that day he brought to El Paso the first automobile ever owned in Woodford County. It was a new one-cylinder Glide from a Peoria factory. Perhaps it was too new, for Charlie drove it home over the rough dirt roads of that period. A factory mechanic rode as far as Secor, and there he told Charlie to take it on to El Paso alone, that he would return to Peoria from Secor by train. It was like an aviator taking his first solo flight, but the Doctor got the car going down the hill at the Secor cemetery, and near the bridge the motor fell out the bottom of the car onto the road! Charlie got a farmer, drove a team back to Secor, picked up the mechanic who was still on the platform at the depot, and they went back and finally got the motor back into the car. It then made El Paso without further mishap, the cynosure of all eyes, but angering the folks whose teams were scared to the point of running away every time the horses saw the chugging machine.

While the good Doctor has three other stories which are factual and just as interesting as the one above, he made us promise we'd use only the one. Some extracurricular activities of this nimble-minded individual can be told. He has played with several well-known bands of Bloomington and Peoria, and all of the El Paso bands for over fifty years. G. L. Lowell of El Paso composed the "Woodford County Two-Step" which old-timers say was a "humdinger", and Dr. Patton completed the arrangements of it. Doctor Patton loves to travel, and it doesn't matter where; he has visited about forty-six of the forty-eight states, and he'll make those this summer. We then hope Congress adds Alaska and Hawaii to put him two down again.

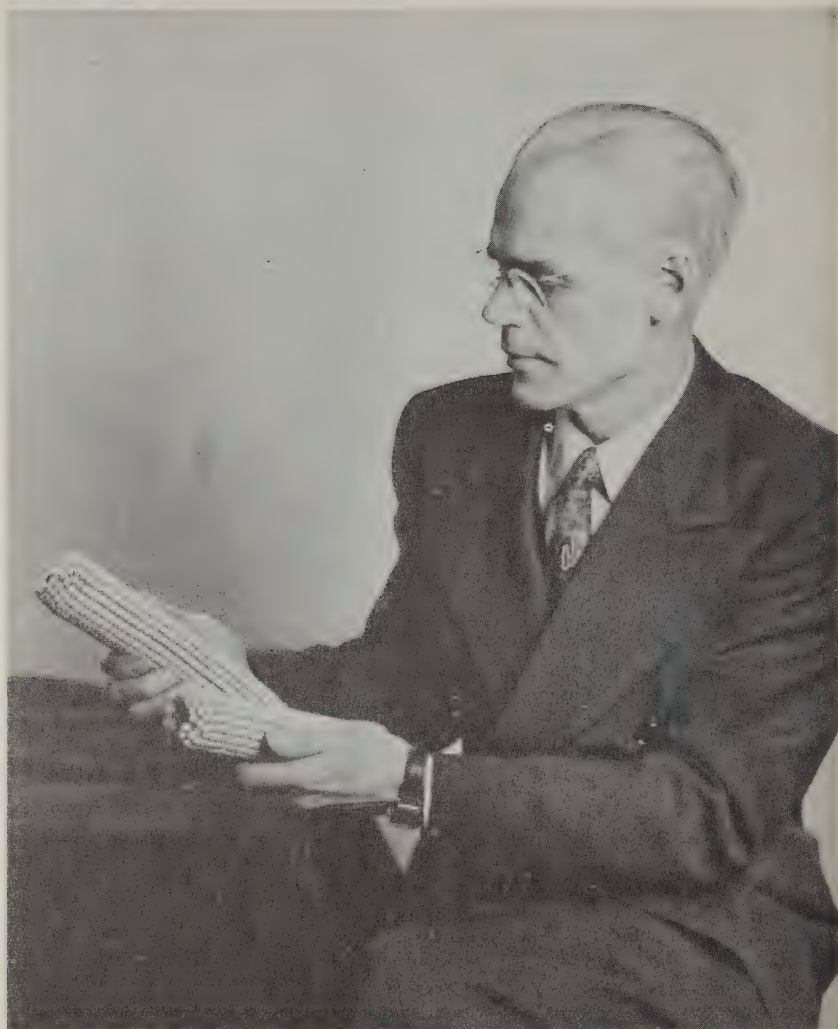


DR. AND MRS. C. O. PATTON IN 1953. THE DOCTOR IS DEAN OF EL PASO'S BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN WHO ARE STILL ACTIVE IN CENTENNIAL YEAR.

The Doctor married Nettie Tucker, and they have one daughter, Alpha Patton Cleary, talented pianist and music teacher. Although eighty-one years of age, Dr. C. O. Patton walks to work every day, and his dental office is the oldest business or professional office in El Paso operated by the original owner.

Lester Pfister

Lester Pfister was born July 6, 1897 on a farm northeast of El Paso, the second son of John and Emma (Haas) Pfister. The father died when Lester was eight years old, leaving the widow with five children, two boys and three girls. Lester managed to attend school through the eighth grade, the final year being at McKinley in El Paso. Then he hired out as a farm hand and at eighteen began farming independently with his brother Lloyd. He was married to Helen Vogel on September 24, 1924, and to this union eight children were born, the youngest and the oldest dying in infancy.



LESTER PFISTER, FOUNDER OF THE PFISTER HYBRID CORN COMPANY AND
PRESIDENT OF THE EL PASO NATIONAL BANK.

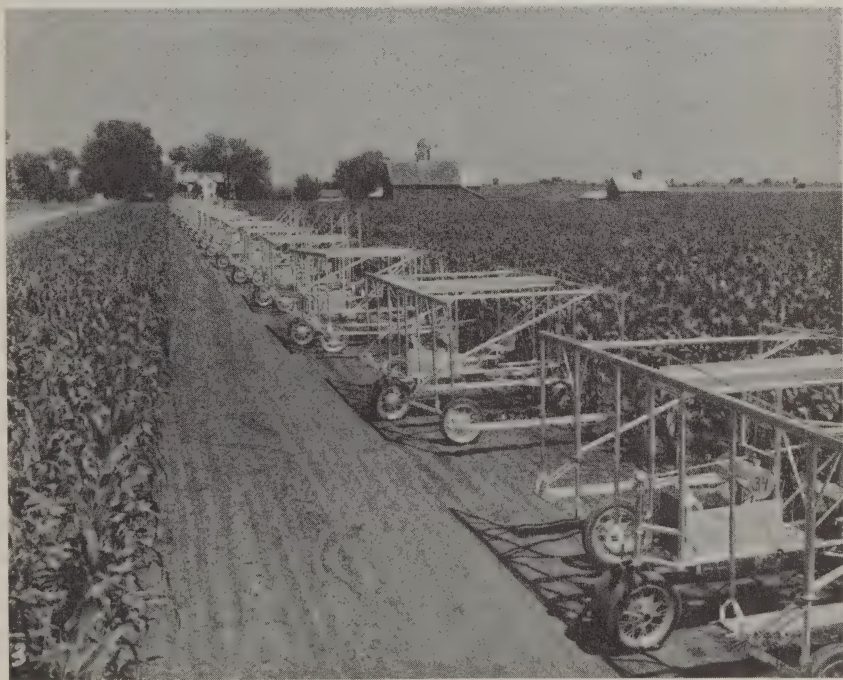
His initial field of scientific research dealt with chickens. Following this, came experiments with open-pollinated corn, which led to hybrids and to fame for Lester Pfister. For although many people have built the great hybrid corn industry, perhaps more has been written about Lester Pfister than any other grower.

Today, Lester Pfister's business is the biggest commercial enterprise in the El Paso area. His early experiments in cross-breeding corn and selecting inbreds for use, did not always promise success.

That success finally came is due to a persistency and determination that is characteristic of Lester. By 1938, his corn breeding had produced such outstanding results that *Life Magazine* sent photographers and gave him a double-page spread in their August 29 issue that year. The same month the *Country Home* magazine used for their leading article a story about Lester and his work, entitled "Bagging a Million," which Pfister thinks must have referred to bushels and not dollars of profit at the time, but which drew enough attention to be reprinted by *Readers Digest* with a circulation up in the millions. Pfister has perhaps had more publicity than any other native El Pasoan excepting Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

Lester also worked closely with M. L. Moser in his earlier days, and with George Krug and his open-pollinated strains. The financial depression of the thirties handicapped his work tremendously, for in addition to the cost of his experiments, he had recently purchased his first 160-acre farm, where his home is today. But by 1935 Pfister had his famous 360 and 366 strains on the market and each year for several years the sales doubled. Dr. Holbert had aided him in producing these strains by adding his own successful single cross called A by Hy.

After this success, Lester began the gradual expansion of his facilities and farmland, and today he and his family own some 1,200



THE PFISTER COMPANY'S DETASSELING MACHINES
AT THE LUCILLE HOLT FARM.



PFISTER'S FOUR-ROW CORN PICKERS WERE FIRST USED ON THE 1945 CROP.

acres in addition to the plants for handling and storing the seed produced. He annually leases about 5,000 acres of land from farmers in the area which is added to his own seed producing acres.

Lester is noted for his search for new aids to agriculture, as well as seed corn production. In seed came detasseling machines from his shops, which enabled the detassellers to ride instead of walk through the fields, but the better reason was to get them up where they could see and remove the tassel much easier than was possible when walking. Then came the combination four-row corn pickers, suited for Lester's flat land, and which doubled the bushels per day. We believe these machines from his own shops, made by welding two ordinary two-row pickers together with the various changes and additions, were the first to be successfully used anywhere. To this in recent years, Lester's inventive son Jerry added a corn sheller, so that four rows can be picked and shelled in the same operation. Another gadget Pfister made without a pattern to guide him, was spraying rigs to combat the corn borer and insect menace. When drouth caused severe crop losses, Lester Pfister rigged up a two-motor plane for seeding clouds with dry ice and tried rain making for two seasons. Doubting the feasibility of this, he quickly swung his attention to field irrigation, and has an inbred field completely ready to provide artificial

rain if it is needed. That one field would most vitally affect his business should rainfall be deficient. His latest is an experiment for the benefit of all farmers should it prove successful. He has for two seasons been deep plowing after the European fashion. A hugh Caterpillar and rotating discs turns the soil to a depth of fifteen to twenty inches. Annually he tests out varied combinations of fertilizers, and for two years has made the results public at a demonstration day.

When El Paso celebrates her sesquicentennial, corn growing will have advanced far beyond where it is today, and we predict Lester Pfister's pioneering in both seed production and agriculture will have helped to create the better conditions.

"There is no greater disloyalty to the great pioneers of human progress than to refuse to budge an inch from where they stood," Dean William Ralph Inge.

George J. Ray

George J. Ray, the son of Jerry and Harriett (Swallow) Ray, was born in Metamora, Illinois on March 24, 1876, but he spent so much time in and around Panola, with many relatives there, that we consider him from our area.

He received his A. B. degree from the University of Illinois in 1898; a civil engineering degree in 1910, and a Doctor of Science from La-Fayette College at Easton, Pennsylvania in 1916. He married Edna Rose Hammers of an old Panola family. The Illinois Central utilized Ray in construction work, giving him one promotion after another. On March 1, 1903 he entered the employ of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company, and from that date until March 31, 1946, when he retired, he was successively a division engineer, chief engineer, vice-president in charge of operations, and finally, general manager. He was also engineering assistant to the regional director of the eastern region for the United States Railroad Administration.

Tackling difficult jobs was a specialty with George Ray. He built the fine passenger station at Scranton, Pennsylvania, the locomotive shops in the same city, the drawbridge over the Hackensack River, the passenger terminal at Buffalo, the Lackawanna terminal warehouse at Jersey City, the bridge over the Delaware River, and the Pauline Kill viaduct. He supervised the elevation of tracks over two busy railroads west of Bergen Hill tunnel and kept the heavy traffic going during the construction. Ray constructed the famous Pequest Fill, largest railroad embankment in the world, three miles long with an average height of 110 feet, and containing 6,625,000 cubic yards of fill.

Perhaps Ray's masterpiece is the Tunkhannock Viaduct, largest concrete railroad bridge in the world, 2,375 feet long and 240 feet high over the creek. Into its construction went four and one-half million cubic feet of concrete and over two and one-quarter million pounds of reinforcing steel. This work has been the subject of praise from Theodore Dreiser in his book called *A Hoosier Holiday*.

Mr. Ray retired April 1, 1946 at the age of seventy. He is a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a past member of its board of direction; he is also a life member and a past president of the American Railway Engineering Association. His home today is in Summit, New Jersey.

Gus Raymond

Gus Raymond's father, Leo Raymond, was born in Panola and his aunt, Miss Emma Raymond, today makes her home there. While we like to think of Gus as a native of Panola, he was actually born in Bloomington on July 24, 1900, but went to grade school in Panola. He obtained his high school education in Minonk and Mason City, Illinois, and then spent a year at a West Point preparatory school, but an army career didn't appeal to him.

In April of 1924 the young man started work at Western Electric in Chicago, and completed many technical courses in electrical engineering. At present Mr. Raymond is the personnel director for the Western Electric Company at its New York plant, having been only recently transferred from Indianapolis where he was the manager.

The business editor of the *Indianapolis Times* wrote in its November 15, 1950 issue that Gus Raymond had moved the Western Electric plant from Archer Avenue in Chicago to 2525 Shadeland Avenue in Indianapolis without ceasing the manufacturing operations of the plant. Mr. Hartley, the editor, calls the engineer "Gus the Great," and "Man of Magic." This huge plant is primarily engaged in the manufacturing of telephone instruments and parts. Raymond deserved the credit given him by Mr. Hartley, who said: "Raymond moved an entire industry from one city to another with one hand, and operated a third plant with another. He dismantled one plant, built and equipped another, while training workers in a third plant." The new Indianapolis plant was dedicated November 23, 1950, and is today a beehive of activity.

Gus Raymond treasures his boyhood memories of days around Panola and El Paso. He states that he and some of his grammar school chums were the first in this part of the country to have wireless transmitting and receiving sets. This was possible because of the understanding help of a local station agent who was one of the earliest of the ham operators. Under the operator the boys learned the international code, but more important, it interested Gus Raymond in the electronics field. There he today has a place with one of the great industrial manufacturers.

Dr. Richard Ostler Schofield

The discoverer of the cause of heatstroke is a native son. Dr. Schofield was born March 23, 1889 in Panola; he graduated from the old McKinley High School in 1905 and thereafter lived on farms in Illinois and Montana until 1911 when he moved to California. He holds a B. A. degree (1918) and a M. A. (1922) from the University of California.

For nine years he practiced general medicine at Hobart Mills, California, operating his own fifteen-bed hospital.

In 1931 Dr. Schofield traveled to Vienna, Austria, and to Edinburgh, Scotland, for advanced study in specialized surgery. Returning to California, he specialized in accident cases involving surgery and bone fractures. In 1932 he was appointed chief surgeon and medical director for the Six Companies at Las Vegas, Nevada, the headquarters of the great Hoover Dam project. Sunstroke and heat exhaustion demanded much of Dr. Schofield's time, so he established a desert research laboratory and began experimenting in physiological biochemistry to determine the causes of heatstroke. The wide employment of salt tablets by workers in excessive heat is the direct result.

For the past eighteen years, Dr. Schofield has been a practicing surgeon in Sacramento, California. In 1949 he was awarded membership in the Academia Consentino, being formally decorated with the medal of that order when he addressed the International Industrial Medical Association in Italy. Dr. Schofield is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a past president of the Nevada Medical Association, a past president of the Western Industrial Association and a director of the American Industrial Association.

Cletus Leo Schwitters

El Paso has one native son who is a movie actor. Those of you who find the name of Byron Keith (an assumed name) unfamiliar, may remember a goodlooking, sharp-witted lad by the name of Clete Schwitters who was born in El Paso to Chris H. and Ada Kamp Schwitters on November 17, 1917. He didn't remain long in El Paso, for his parents moved to Armstrong and Estherville, Iowa, where Clete received most of his education. His intelligence and sense of humor landed him in radio work where he began broadcasting special events and news under the name of Clete Lee. From a station in Des Moines, Iowa, he went to Boise, Idaho, becoming director of special events for station KIDC.

In 1941 he was in Hollywood as a radio actor, but he left this work May 5, 1942 to enlist in the Air Force. The next year he was commissioned a second lieutenant and was assigned to the Public Relations and Intelligence section. There he co-produced and directed the "Eyes of the Air Force" over the Columbia Broadcasting System from New York City. Receiving his honorable discharge in 1944, he returned to Hollywood and radio work. His first moving picture was in 1945 when he got a part in a picture called "The Stranger" which featured Loretta Young, Edward G. Robinson and Orson Wells. Since then he has appeared in fourteen pictures, the latest released being "The Robe" and "Arrowhead". The latter is a high-class western type of picture in which Clete (Byron Keith) played the third male lead and did a fine job.

Cletus L. Schwitters now lives in Van Nuys, California, is married to a member of a radio trio, and they have a son and a daughter. He has

currently been seen by El Pasoans on TV, having appeared on guest programs, and in Revlon Theatre, My Friend Irma, City Detective, My Favorite Husband, and a series called Secret Chapter. Mrs. Eleanor Schwitters of El Paso is an aunt by marriage, and Ernest Schwitters of Carlock is a first cousin.

Don Cash Seaton

When Mr. and Mrs. C. M. C. Seaton arrived in El Paso in August of 1916, they brought with them a young chap destined to go far in the field of physical education. Don was born in Canton, Illinois, January 31, 1902, coming here when his parents took over the Clifton Hotel, where he grew up.

County tournaments found Seaton piling up points for El Paso Township High School, and he still holds the county broad jump record of twenty-one feet one and one-half inches, established in 1920, next to Joe Baker's shot put record, the oldest in the books. Seaton received his B. S. at the University of Illinois in 1925 and his M. A. in 1936. In the summer of 1938 he did postgraduate work at Columbia University, and in 1947 received his Ed. D. degree at New York University.

Seaton became the director of physical education at Pontiac in 1925 and the next year originated the Pontiac holiday basketball tournament which is still an annual affair in Pontiac. He is also given credit for originating the man in motion in the "T" formation in football that fall at Pontiac. In 1928 Seaton became instructor of physical education and track and football coach at the Senn High School in Chicago, and in five years won thirteen out of a possible twenty city track and field championships among Chicago high schools. In 1935 he became varsity track and cross-country coach at the University of Illinois, and in 1937 he accepted the position of Illinois State Director of Physical Education.

Don was a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy in 1942 in charge of the Fourth Naval District's Physical Fitness program, being discharged in 1945 as a lieutenant commander. In 1945 he became a coordinator of safety education in New York's public schools for New York University, and in 1947 accepted the position he still holds as Director of Physical Education and Track Coach at the University of Kentucky at Louisville.

Seaton has had marked success in his chosen field; in his four-year period at the University of Illinois his teams won one Big Ten track championship and two cross-country championships when he was the youngest coach in the conference. Perhaps most important is his safety work; as state director he secured nearly 95% compliance to the high school physical education law, and he encouraged over 800 high schools to teach safety education; he pushed a safety program and safety laws in Illinois public school transportation systems, and was instrumental in requiring certain physical examinations in all high schools.

As head of the Physical Education Department in the University of Kentucky, Don Cash Seaton has expanded the curriculum and staff until it ranks with the best in the South. He has given leadership and guidance to the State Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and has served as chairman for some twenty sections of the Southern and American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Dr. Don Seaton is married to the former Louise Shoop, whose father was once a pastor of the El Paso Methodist Church. She was a teacher in the El Paso Township High School prior to her marriage.

Cecil A. Sharpe

Born in Panola, Illinois on May 11, 1901, Cecil Sharpe, son of John W. and Margaret Sharpe, became an educator and, by quirk of fate, received recognition for an act of heroism. He attended grade school in Panola and graduated from El Paso Township High School in 1919, receiving his B. A. degree at Illinois State Normal University and his M. A. at the University of Illinois.

Cecil started a career of thirty-four years in the teaching profession at the Cram school north of Secor, teaching five years in Woodford County rural schools, and continued successively at Roanoke, Rutland, Bureau, and Spring Valley, the last nine years as principal of Hall Township High School there.

Mr. Sharpe's first wife, Ocie M. Leach of Minonk, passed away in 1952 leaving two sons. In 1953 the widower remarried, his second wife being the former Mrs. Floyd G. Wood, a supervisor of teachers in the Los Angeles Elementary School System.

When Cecil was superintendent of the public schools in Bureau on January 19, 1927, he performed an act of heroism which won him a bronze medal and \$1,000 from the Carnegie Hero Fund, by rescuing a fourteen months old boy from certain death. The documented story is as follows:

This child and his three year old brother were alone in their home when the building caught fire. The older child ran outside as the dense smoke poured from the building.

Several persons tried to enter the building to rescue the baby but were driven back by the dense smoke. Mr. Sharpe was warned not to try to enter the building, but with a fine courage and cool judgment, crawled in on his hands and knees. He was almost overcome by smoke by the time he reached the baby, but managed to carry it from the burning building. The child suffered serious burns but recovered it. Mr. Sharpe was not seriously burned, but suffered from the severe nervous strain.

The Most Reverend Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

El Pasoans are justly proud of all its native sons who have gone out into the world to carve careers for themselves and to write their names on the scroll of fame, but we are especially proud of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. To those with courage and perseverance who love

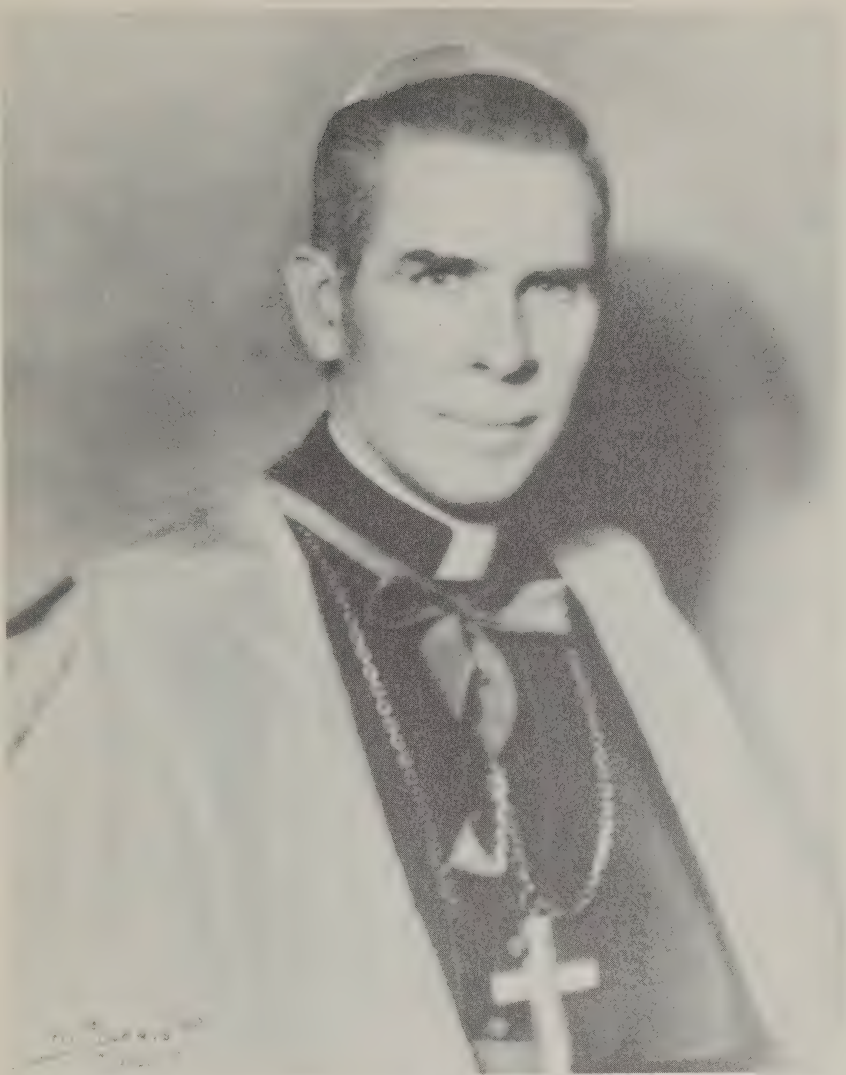


THE STORE AT THE LEFT IS THE NEWTON SHEEN HARDWARE STORE IN 1895, THE YEAR BISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN WAS BORN IN AN UPSTAIR ROOM, THE HOME OF HIS PARENTS. THE DORMER WINDOWS OF THIS BUILDING WERE ADDED LATER, ABOUT 1898. THE SHEENS SOLD THEIR STORE TO O. C. GUILLEMONT AND MOVED TO PEORIA. IN 1954 THESE STORES ARE (L TO R) BAITY'S HARDWARE STORE, WILLIAM'S TAVERN AND THE KITCHELL INSURANCE AGENCY.

work, success usually comes. The words "love" and "work" both are woven into Bishop Sheen's character in golden threads. It is this all embracing love, coupled with a sincerity of purpose that can never be questioned which explains his spectacular rise to fame in the Roman Catholic Church.

Fulton John Sheen was born in the second floor apartment at 25 West Front Street in El Paso, Illinois on May 8, 1895, the son of Newton Morris and Delia (Fulton) Sheen. The parents were then living in the rooms above their hardware store; the ground floor is still a hardware store today owned by Burton Baity. The Reverend Jeremiah H. Quinlan was pastor at St. Mary's Church when the baby boy was christened Peter John, on May 12, and usually thereafter was called P. J. He was a frail boy, who preferred reading books to indulging in the usual physical games of children. Newton Sheen sold his hardware store to a Mr. Guillemont and the family moved to Peoria, where the future Bishop began his education, graduating from Spaulding and continuing as a student at St. Viator College at Bourbonnais, Illinois.

He was a brilliant student and the next stop on his educational itinerary was at St. Paul, Minnesota, Seminary which he attended for one year. For as far back as the Bishop can recall, he had wanted to become a priest, and in 1919 he attained that goal, and was ordained. He next studied for two years at the Catholic University of America at Washington, D. C., and followed this with studies at the University



HIS EXCELLENCY, BISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN, BORN AT
25 WEST FRONT STREET, EL PASO, ILLINOIS, MAY 8, 1895.

of Louvain, Belgium, and the University of Rome. He was awarded the degree of *Agrège en Philosophie* at Louvain, perhaps the one of all his degrees that he prizes the most highly. In 1926 he returned to the Catholic University of America at Washington, D. C. where he became professor of philosophy.

In England, Sheen taught for a time at St. Edmund's College; he acted as an assistant to the pastor of St. Patrick's in Soho; he preach-

ed at summer conferences of Westminster Cathedral in London and lectured at the Catholic Summer School at the University of Cambridge.

His first national prominence came with his long series of sermons preached on the Catholic Hour over the National Broadcasting Company, although his early books were on the market before that: *Old Errors and New Labels*; *Philosophy of Science*; *War and Guilt* and *Freedom Under God*. He was appointed Papal Chamberlain and made Domestic Prelate. Long before he became the Right Reverend Monsignor Sheen he had dropped his given name Peter to honor his mother, and the world perhaps does not know that she had christened him Peter J. rather than Fulton J. Sheen.

In 1951 Pope Pius XII elevated the gifted speaker and preacher to Titular Bishop of Cesariana and Auxiliary Bishop of New York. His facile pen had continued to turn out books one after the other, and no one could understand when the prelate had found the time to write them: *Lift Up Your Heart*, *God and Intelligence*, *Three to Get Married*, *Philosophy of Religion*, *The World's First Love*, *Peace of Soul*, and finally came a production masterpiece, *Life is Worth Living*.

As modern as a next year's automobile, the Bishop quickly thought television would be the medium with which he could reach the most people with the most effective messages. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, of which he is the Director, secured for him a half-hour period, and those who thought you couldn't successfully preach a sermon on TV were astounded to find the Sheen program topping all others on television ratings its first year. Today, the Bishop Sheen television program, *Life is Worth Living*, is generally recognized as the most inspirational half hour coming over the air waves, the rating showing that ten million people watch it weekly. Although of Roman Catholic sponsorship, Sheen carefully prepares his gifted sermons on a non-denominational basis, and keeps them on such spiritual level that men and women of all faiths eagerly look forward to his next week's program. They are never on a somber note. Sheen's listeners and viewers feel that he puts a certain joy into living, with his wit and sly humor, that enhances his theme: *Life Is Worth Living*.

The Bishop's uncle, Joseph Fulton, and a number of cousins are residents of El Paso, but the Bishop's visits to his birthplace in his busy life have been all too few. None the less, the town in which he was born is intensely proud of His Excellency, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, and the good that he is accomplishing throughout the United States in the spiritual uplift of millions.

Dr. James J. Sheppard

James J. Sheppard was born January 1, 1868, in Panola, Illinois, a tiny place, yet he finally achieved great things in New York, America's greatest city. As a boy he worked on a farm, in a sawmill, and taught in country schools until he could earn enough money to attend Illinois State Normal University. From there he went to Harvard University,

and was graduated with the class of 1894. He then became principal of a high school in Decatur, Illinois, proving himself a capable administrator.

When New York City established the first group of high schools in the city proper, Dr. Sheppard became head of the department of history in one of them, then called the Boy's High School of Manhattan. He continued in this position from 1896 until 1902, obtaining his Doctor's degree from New York University during this period. In 1902 New York City established the first commercial high school in the city, and named it the High School of Commerce. Dr. Sheppard became its first principal, and brought with him from his last school, renamed the DeWitt Clinton High School, all of the boys attending the annex of that school and many from other city high schools who wished to specialize in the commercial fields. He served as principal of this school until he died, March 13, 1914. A plaque is still in the auditorium, erected by the students, to Dr. Sheppard's memory. Dr. Sheppard pioneered in the field of commercial education at the high school level.

Frank H. Shuman

Frank was born on the home farm southwest of El Paso, October 24, 1898, the son of George and Lucretia Shuman. He attended El Paso grade and high schools, graduating with the class of 1917, and in 1921 graduated from the University of Illinois with a B. S. Degree in Agriculture. During a five-year period from 1921 to 1926 he taught vocational agriculture in the Atwood and Pekin high schools. From 1926 until January 15, 1930, he was Jersey County, Illinois, farm adviser.

Shuman then moved to Whiteside County where for twenty-three years, until January 15, 1953, his ability as a farm counselor attracted state and national attention. Most of his success was from his homely saying: "People are more important than hogs." This reasoning dovetailed with his program to help people to help themselves. No problem related to agrarian progress was overlooked by Frank Shuman, and farmers depended upon him for sympathetic cooperation. He accepted the challenge of low corn yields, chinch bugs, hog cholera, grasshoppers and sick cattle and gave guidance in all the problems of the modern farm.

He was interested in 4H Club work, soil clinics, improved fertilizers and farmer owned cooperatives.

In June, 1950, Whiteside County dedicated a new Farm Bureau building, one of the finest in the state, said to be the lengthened shadow of one man, Frank H. Shuman. He only enjoyed his new building for a year and a half, when he had a clear duty call in a foreign field. Government officials had pointed at Frank and said, "We want you" to go to Allahabad Technical Institute at Allahabad, India, to work under a Ford Foundation grant to aid the Indian people to grow the food they need to feed themselves properly. Accepting this two-year assignment was a tough decision for Frank, but he sailed in January

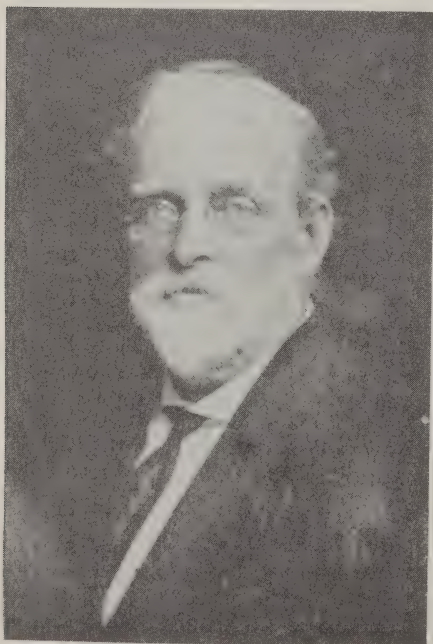
of 1953, telling those he left behind that he felt sincerely that he was going to the place where he could put his education to the best use for the benefit of mankind. He was followed in June by his wife and daughter Mary, the latter returning to the states in January, 1954. Frank Shuman's knowledge and research will do much to banish hunger from one of the greatest starvation areas on earth.

Frank H. Shuman is married to the former Doris H. King of Waynesville, Illinois. Their eldest son, Howard, now a professor at the University of Illinois, finished his education at Oxford University in England. There he was honored by being elected the president of the Oxford Union, a debating society, the third American to hold that position in the 130 years of the Society's existence.

Levi F. Smith

At the time of his death on March 18, 1929, Levi F. Smith enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest acting photographer in the United States. He was also El Paso's oldest active business man. Mr. Smith was born in Holden, Massachusetts, October 7, 1855, the son of Benjamin F. and Sarah Maria Smith.

From Holden the youth moved with his parents to Worcester; in 1866 the family made another change to Woodstock, Ohio, and in 1867 they moved to El Paso, Illinois. Here young Levi worked at the shoe trade with his father and uncle Levi. Then he tried being a printer's devil for Gresham Martin in the old Journal office.



LEVI F. SMITH (1855-1929), EL PASO PHOTOGRAPHER FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS. MANY PICTURES IN THIS BOOK ARE FROM HIS NEGATIVES.

Not entirely satisfied, he went to work for L. R. Thayer, an early El Paso photographer, and there found his place in the business world. Mastering the art of taking tintype pictures, the fourteen year old youth opened a gallery of his own on July 4, 1869. He later bought out Mr. Thayer and expanded his operations. On December 26, 1876, Miss Emma Laura Arnold became his wife; she became an adept photographer in her own right and handled the business whenever her husband was busy in his dark room or at his Minonk studio. Mr. Smith often confessed that he owed his success largely to his talented wife. Two sons were born to them, Roy A. who died when young, and Max, a lifetime resident of El Paso who is presently an excellent violinist and an assistant cashier in the El Paso National Bank. Emma L. Arnold was the daughter of Isaac M. and Sarah V. Arnold, early Gabetown residents; the latter was a talented artist and painted the picture of Andrew Carnegie which today hangs in the El Paso Public Library.

Much of El Paso's history was coincident with the life of Levi Smith, and he had much of it on photographic plates. The committee preparing this book was fortunate in finding many of these plates of earlier El Paso, and to a great extent, the pictures appearing in this book are Levi F. Smith's. George R. Curtiss wrote of him: "He snapped the shutter of his camera at the new baby, and later when the girl graduated from school, then in her bridal gown, later with a baby in her own arms, then as a member of the family group during reunions, and sometimes on the memorial wreath and flowers when she was laid to her last sleep."

Possessing an inventive mind, Levi Smith obtained two patents in 1907; one was on a trimming machine and another on a method of mounting plates. He had a desire to keep pace with progress, and devoted several months at the Chicago Fine Arts Studio in studying the art of negative retouching. He found increasing pleasure in the history of photography; tintypes, wet plates, dry plates, graflex, panoramic and movie cameras had all been studied and used by Levi F. Smith. Any electrical gadget fascinated Mr. Smith, and it seemed to him that the radio was the greatest of all electrical phenomena. How he would have enjoyed television!

Ira D. Snyder

Brigadier General Ira D. Snyder was born February 11, 1904 on a farm six miles west of El Paso to David M. and Caroline Snyder, both deceased. He obtained his elementary school education at the Olive Branch school east of Secor on Route 24. He attended the two-year high school at Secor, thereafter attending the El Paso Township High School and catching on its baseball team prior to his graduation in 1921. The next fall he attended the School of Engineering in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Following that he worked for three years for Western Electric and the Commonwealth Edison Companies as an electrical draftsman.

Ira Snyder entered the University of Illinois in September, 1925, graduating with the class of 1929 with a B. S. degree. He had won a letter on the baseball diamond at Illinois, and had made the trip to Japan in 1928 with that team. After graduation he was employed by Otto Randolph Inc., a Chicago firm, as an assistant superintendent of construction and later as a field engineer.

Ira always wanted to fly, and he was delighted when he received his appointment as a flying cadet in February, 1931, and entered training at March Field, California. He graduated from the Air Corps Advanced Flying School as a rated pilot, and in February, 1932, he received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Corps Reserve. One month later, he was assigned to active duty with the Eighth Pursuit Group at Langley Field, Virginia. Because of the national economy drive then in effect his active duty was limited to one year, and he then returned to civilian life to become a partner in a hardware business at Barstow, California.

In 1939 he took a leave of absence from his business to enter the Air Corps expansion program as a flight instructor at Santa Maria, California. He was recalled to active duty in March of 1941 as a captain, and the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 saw him promoted through the ranks of major and lieutenant colonel to that of a full colonel. After the war he became a career soldier and was integrated into the regular Air Force, and by December, 1946 he had become commander of the Iceland Base Command. There the Iceland Government gave him their highest award, Knight Commander of the Falcon, for "giving such assistance as to avert a national economic disaster during the winter of 1947." Completing that assignment, Snyder was ordered to Newfoundland where he assumed command of the Pepperrell Air Force Base.

He was graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D. C., in June, 1950, and was then assigned to the Headquarters of the Tactical Air Command at Langley Field, Virginia as Deputy Chief of Staff, Materiel. His advance in rank to brigadier general was approved December 3, 1952, and at our last report he was still on duty at Langley Air Force Base.

David A. Strother

David A. Strother was the first Negro in the United States to cast a ballot as a result of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, and this historic event occurred in an El Paso city election.

In those days, El Paso operated under a special charter of the legislature, which had been approved by Governor Oglesby in 1867. Article XV of the United States Constitution was declared in effect March 30, 1870, and stated that the right of citizens to vote shall not be denied on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

March 30, 1870 was on a Wednesday, and the following Monday, April 4, 1870, was El Paso's city election under its special charter,



DAVID A. STROTHER (1843-1905), THE FIRST NEGRO IN THE UNITED STATES TO VOTE AS A RESULT OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT.

one day earlier than almost all other elections were held. David Strother was a well-educated gentleman with an excellent shelf of especially good books, well regarded by all local citizens. James H. Wathen, then mayor, and Jacob Fishburn, accompanied Dave to the polls when they opened that morning, but the officials were nonplussed at his demand to vote, but they knew Dave's honesty so well that they told him they would investigate his statement that the new amendment had been proclaimed law and to come back a little later.

William Neifing, local harness dealer and undertaker, was one of the judges and he sent out for a copy of the amendment, and learned that it was adopted. The judges sent a messenger for Dave and he returned to the polls where apologies were made and he proceeded to cast his vote, no doubt for the reelection of Mr. Wathen as mayor. Later in the day, Dave's brother, Charles Strother also cast his vote, unquestionably the second Negro to vote under the new amendment.

Needless to say, Strother's vote made history. Gersh Martin was then El Paso's newspaper editor, and he lost no time in telegraphing the news to the Associated Press, and soon people all over the United States were reading about an obscure Negro barber who had cast the first vote of his race following the change in the Constitution. Had it not been for our peculiar charter which called for an election on Monday, fame might have passed Dave up because there is no question other Negroes voted the following day when regular elections were held in many other communities.

David A. Strother (his signature shows the middle initial as "A", and not "H" as was generally written) was born in Lexington, Missouri, August 18, 1843, the son of parents who were slaves. His

mother, according to Dave's oft told story, gave \$50 in cash and for several years contributed to the education of a daughter of her former mistress as the price of her release from bondage. Dave had almost no formal education, but he was one of the best educated men of his race in his day. He had been a boy cook on a Mississippi steamer, and had traveled up and down that river in the days of Mark Twain's journeys. His culinary excellence found him a job in the army as a civilian cook with Company G, 17th Illinois Infantry, commanded by Captains O. A. Burgess and J. H. Rowell.

Strother came to El Paso at the urging of Troop "G", forty-four local area men having served at one time or another in the company where Dave was a cook, and in January of 1864 Jonathan D. Parks let him set up a chair in a corner of his insurance and J. P. office, located on the alley in rear of Janssen's grocery at 11 East Front Street. When Parks had a trial, the barber had to move his chair over to W. R. Willis' office next door, to return after the trial was over.

Soon Dave's mother and brother Charles followed him to El Paso, and Charles added his chair in Dave's new barber shop in the basement of the Eagle Block building. Business was good for the two genial and polite colored gentlemen, and all El Pasoans knew of their "Scalp-Food" tonic and "Genuine Rainwater Baths."

Charles Strother died of tuberculosis in April of 1897, and on July 12, 1901, Elizabeth Gaines Strother, Dave's wife, succumbed to the same malady. David continued alone after that, and his kindness seemed a thing of beauty matched only by his apparent loneliness. On March 12, 1905, he was stricken with a heart attack and quickly died. He then lived at 197 West Fourth St.

The Methodist Church was packed by his friends, nearly all of another race, when he was eulogized by the Reverend Shoop, assisted by Reverend Stephan. Dave now sleeps in his own lot in Evergreen Cemetery with his mother, brother, and his wife. He left something far more valuable than the things which were divided among his friends and one rather distant relative—books of travel in the United States and the Arctic, a gold watch and chain, two violins which he had played rather well, a set of Dickens, and a few pieces of furniture. This year, the 1954 Centennial year, El Paso Post No. 59 of the American Legion is belatedly marking his grave with a suitable stone, believing that his vote the morning of April 4, 1870 marked a milestone on the road to human freedom.

Dr. Major H. Worthington

In 1930 this well-known physician and surgeon accepted the position of superintendent of the famous Illinois Research and Educational Hospital in Chicago, and he held this position until his death in March of 1944.

Dr. Major Henry Worthington was born here in 1880, the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Worthington. The name Major was not a rank, as he was

named after James H. Wathen, usually called the "Major." He attended El Paso's elementary schools and graduated from our high school in 1895. Receiving an M. D. from Northwestern University, he served internship at the old Wesley Memorial Hospital. During a five-year period, from 1907 to 1912, he was assistant eye surgeon at the Illinois Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary. He practiced medicine in Chicago and in Los Angeles until 1917.

From then until 1930 Dr. Worthington devoted his energies to the Chicago Reciprocal Insurance Exchange. The old Belt Automobile Indemnity Association, which from its founding until January 1, 1924 had its headquarters in El Paso, was a member of that exchange.

Famous Visitors

We attach to the Name and Fame chapter about local sons, an interesting list of famous visitors to El Paso:

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN, orator, political leader and Secretary of State in Wilson's cabinet, lectured at the Grand Opera House, Wednesday, February 8, 1905. His subject: "The Value of an Ideal." He stayed that night at the Campbell House.

BLIND BOONE, sightless Negro concert pianist with a phenomenal musical memory, visited the McKinley School and played a concert in the Grand Opera House about 1906.

SAMUEL L. CLEMENS, better known as MARK TWAIN, stopped at the Campbell House the night of January 12, 1869, while on a lecture tour. He was simply resting up here and changing trains, but he sat up late that night and wrote a lengthy love letter to his girl Livvy in New York. It was published in the *Atlantic Monthly* for November, 1947 on pages 37-38, including the El Paso dateline.

JAMES M. COX, campaigning for president in 1920, halted his train here for twenty minutes and made a rear platform address at the railroad crossing. His running mate, a little known politician named Franklin D. Roosevelt, did not accompany Mr. Cox.

GEORGE CRAIG, present governor of Indiana, was a speaker at an annual Community-Legion banquet just prior to his election as national commander of the American Legion. No less than nine national commanders have addressed these dinners during their terms of office: Ossie Lee Bodenhamer, 1930; Edward A. Hayes, 1934; Ray Murphy, 1936; Harry W. Colmery, 1937; Daniel J. Doherty, 1938; Stephen F. Chadwick, 1939; Raymond J. Kelly, 1940; James F. O'Neil, 1948, and Lewis K. Gough in 1953.

ULYSSES S. GRANT, touring the nation after his round the world trip, held a reception at the Campbell House on Monday, April 19, 1880, after which he departed on the Illinois Central for Bloomington.

FLEET ADMIRAL WILLIAM F. HALSEY, JR., late in World War II the fighting commander of the greatest naval force ever assembled, and upon whose flagship *Missouri* the Japanese signed their surrender document, visited El Paso the afternoon of March 9, 1950, and was

guest speaker at El Paso Post's Community-Legion banquet that evening in the high school gymnasium. He spoke on the navy's need for aircraft carriers and a well-balanced defense.

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL, colonel in the Civil War, noted Peoria lawyer and agnostic, was often in El Paso on legal business while a law partner in the firm of Harper, Ingersoll & Cassell.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN changed cars here the day after his Freeport debate with Douglas, August 28, 1858, and was at the depot and the Chlopicki restaurant for an hour and fifty minutes, changing cars to go to Peoria. He was again in town with his family on a special Illinois Central train in July, 1859, inspecting the yards and the railroad's property here.

CHARLES F. LUMMIS, "super-pedestrian" came along the T. P. & W. on one of his transcontinental walking trips in September, 1884. The boys met him east of town and dog-trotted beside him until he had passed El Paso on his way to Los Angeles. To rest, he walked backwards, and traveled in that manner about as fast as others walking in the regular manner.

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LOGAN stopped at the Campbell House on October 6, 1872 during a senatorial campaign. He made a political speech in a wigwam, or wooden building, which stood where the V. F. W. building is today.

MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE B. McCLELLAN was here upon several occasions before he became famous. He was operating engineer and a vice-president of the Illinois Central railroad prior to the Civil War. His final visit here was on March 23, 1859, in company with Richard Cobden. (See Chapter on Ludwik Chlopicki.)

CARRIE NATION lectured at the Grand Opera House during one of her lecture tours following her smashing of Kansas saloons with her hatchet. It was about 1906.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN, the world's heavyweight boxing champion at that time, changed cars sometime around 1890 at the Campbell House, where he shook hands with a number of El Paso citizens.

OLIN F. STOCKWELL, Methodist Missionary for twenty years in China, who was taken by the Chinese Reds in late 1950 and imprisoned for almost two years, fourteen months in solitary confinement, addressed a packed audience in the Methodist Church on July 5, 1953. His subject was the same as the name of the book he wrote on the margins of a bible while imprisoned, *With God in Red China*.

ROBERT VOGELER, International Telephone and Telegraph Company vice-president who was arrested by the Hungarian Communist Government and imprisoned in Budapest for 527 days, visited and held a press conference in El Paso the afternoon of March 25, 1952. That evening he spoke at the Community-Legion banquet on his experiences and present beliefs, outlined from his book, *I Was a Prisoner of Stalin*.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. This record was broken in the 1954 county track meet by one inch.
2. Dr. John S. Kyser was elected president of Northwestern State College April 6, 1954.

CHAPTER 18.

An Epilogue

Literary compositions of a decade or so ago were frequently concluded with an epilogue. This was a postscript tacked on at the close of a story in order to take the reader beyond its natural conclusion, into the future, where the lives of the characters were worked out according to the writer's satisfaction. The reader's imagination was by-passed and where he might have enjoyed pondering on how a character would develop his future, if left to his own devices, that postscript or epilogue left no room for speculation.

Now the author of this chapter has no such thought of spoiling present enjoyment by prophetic pronouncement upon the future. And yet, it is a highly pleasurable, if unprofitable, pastime for one generation to conjecture upon the future of generations to come, and only natural that the imaginations of those who delve into the past be stimulated beyond the present. With humble respect for the past one anxiously observes the trend of the present, and projects, more or less unconsciously, into the future. So the story of El Paso's first hundred years is written and one curiously wonders about the second hundred years. This epilogue serves as a liaison between these two. A wise philosopher once said that "the past is but the prologue to the future." Just so the first hundred years of El Paso's story introduces what is to come.

As the story has unfolded one is impressed by the imagination, the ambition and the determination of the founding fathers. Whether or not one is willing to go along all the way with their motives and methods in establishing this town, one is forced to admit that defeat was defied by them and no end too great to accomplish. Tenacity of purpose brought rewarding ends which perhaps justified somewhat questionable means. The determination to establish a town on this treeless expanse of grassland never flagged and from its inception El Paso became a town of homes having easy access to the outer world by means of two intersecting railroads.

After 100 years El Paso is still primarily a town of nice homes at the crossroads of two arterial highways. Easy accessibility to nearby cities has discouraged rather than encouraged the location of new industries, often to the distress of our citizens who have watched rival villages grow into booming small cities with the influx of manu-



EL PASO IS A TOWN OF NICE HOMES: THE RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. ALPH STOLLER AT 657 EAST SECOND STREET.



THE RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. PHIL SMITH AT 193 NORTH ADAMS.

facturing concerns. But before one measures entirely the progress of a community by its material expansion, one should place proper appraisal upon the value of a "home" town.

The story is told of the mayor of a small residential town who became so concerned over the seeming static condition of his community that at last he addressed the following letter to the social science head of a nearby college:

Can you give us some advice as to what to do about our town? We have about 2,000 inhabitants of whom 75% own their own homes and keep them up well. Our citizens are law-abiding, prosperous and cultured. We have five churches and better than average grade and high schools. Our business houses are not large but each merchant earns a fair living. We have several miles of paved streets; two parks and childrens' playgrounds; an adequate water supply and an efficient, well-equipped fire department. But we have no factories; no big business and no new industries. Can you give us some advice as to what we should do?

In a few days the mayor received his reply: "Your Honor, if your city has all that you say it has, what you need to do is to build a fence around it and keep it just as it is!"

It would, of course, be presumptuous for any city to foster complacency by building a fence around it in order to preserve it in its present state, but it still remains that if in its second hundred years El Paso continues to remain a "home" town with citizens who worship God, respect the law and believe in the future, it will have justified its second hundred years.

The greatest fear which the atomic era has put upon man today is the fear that he may not have a future to enjoy and therefore must greedily devour the present. No generation has been without some kind of fear. One can readily imagine the fitful slumber of the trailblazer, who, after a wearisome march through timber and marshland, lay down to sleep, only to awaken in the loneliness of night at the crackle of a twig, which might mean the presence of a lurking savage, a hungry beast or a blazing prairie fire. Fear was the frequent and unwanted guest of those pioneer parents who watched their families literally wiped out by contagious diseases with no drugs to administer and no doctors to prescribe. Fear trudged the failing furrows with the discouraged pioneer farmer when starvation threatened. Fear tortured the minds of those who watched godlessness, lawlessness and ignorance flood the frontier.

But those fears were conquered, one by one, by the determined efforts of those trailblazers and founding fathers who were not afraid to stand for what they believed to be right and to make the personal sacrifice in order to achieve it. The swamps were drained, the timbers felled, the grasslands plowed, savages either befriended or put to rout, wild beasts driven off, pestilence subdued, foods enriched, churches built, governments established and schools built and maintained. Thus was civilization advanced as fears were conquered.



THE RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. K. A. LA ROCHELLE AT 480 WEST THIRD.



THE RESIDENCE OF DR. AND MRS. ROBERT P. LYKKEBAK AT 495 WEST THIRD.

Today as El Paso comes to the close of its first hundred years, it pauses only long enough to honor the memory of the past, to catch its breath and to take up the challenge of the future. The story of the second hundred years will be written down by a generation yet to come. That story will be lived by men and women who, like those who made this story, were not afraid of the future, but rather strained toward it with high-purposed expectancy; men and women who will conquer whatever there is to fear by personal sacrifice in order to insure the physical and spiritual well-being of those yet unborn. Only in this way can El Paso lay down her Story of the First Hundred Years.

People and Places



THE OLDEST COMMUNITY FARM HOUSE STILL OCCUPIED IS THE ROBERT MAYNE HOME, BUILT BY WILLIAM DENMAN IN 1856.



THE HOME ERECTED BY JAMES SEERY ON WEST JEFFERSON IN McCLELLAN'S ADDITION, AND SOLD BY HIM TO W. H. McCLELLAN. NOTE THE SIMILARITY TO WATHEN'S HOME. IT IS THE SECOND OLDEST HOUSE IN TOWN.



MRS. WM. GOSSMEYER'S HOME AT 498 WEST JEFFERSON IS THE FIRST BRICK HOME BUILT IN EL PASO BY JOHN STOCK.



THE 1882 EL PASO BAND. FROM THE LEFT: HOWARD BROWN, JOHN HALL, JOHN CHAMPION, DR. J. M. FISHBURN, GEORGE R. CURTISS, JACOB LALLMAN, W. W. DUNMIRE, GEORGE TOUSSIENG, J. S. TUCKER, FRANK DUNMIRE.



THE 1912 EL PASO BAND GETS NEW UNIFORMS.



THE EL PASO BOY SCOUT BAND OF 1919. MEMBERS INCLUDE C. C. TOUSSIENG, JUST HOME FROM THE WAR; DR. C. O. PATTON, DIRECTOR, BURTON HURD, NOEL AND STANLEY GORDON, EMMERSON RISSER, GENE CLEARY, WALDO KEETS, LYLE STEWART, RALPH RADEBAUGH, MERIDETH JENKINS, CLARKE REID, EARL BURROUGHS, LYLE BONAR, ELMER ROBERTSON AND OTHERS WE CANNOT IDENTIFY.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH—MEN'S CLASS ABOUT 1911.



AT THE RAILROAD CROSSING, THE BIG SNOW OF JANUARY 13, 1918.



T. P. W. RAILROAD EAST OF EL PASO, JANUARY 13, 1918.



LOOKING NORTH AT FIRST AND SYCAMORE STREETS.



THE NEW V. F. W. BUILDING AT MAIN AND ELM STREETS.



FRANKLIN PARK, 1954, DONATED BY GEORGE L. GIBSON.



PFISTER STORAGE PLANT, THE FORMER "PRAIRIE
STATE CANNING CO." ON ROUTE 51.



PFISTER OFFICE BUILDING AT 27 WEST MAIN STREET.



REBBEC MOTOR CO. ON THE SITE OF EL PASO'S FIRST BUSINESS BUILDING, 101 EAST FRONT STREET.



WEST FRONT STREET, 1954.



MIDDLE BLOCK OF FRONT STREET, 1954— EL PASO NATIONAL BANK ON RIGHT.



EAST FRONT STREET, 1954.



EL PASO TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL.



RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. RAY SAMPEN AT 371 WEST THIRD STREET.

El Paso Area Pioneers

This list has been assembled by Mr. Kingdon over many years of data gathering. With a few exceptions because of some special interest, we include only those families who lived in El Paso, Greene, Kansas, Palestine or Panola Townships prior to 1860. To pass that date would get into greater population than we could attempt to list.

We leave a space after each letter so you may add names known to belong on the list and inadvertently omitted. We know the listing isn't perfect, but we feel it is the most complete ever compiled to date.

Please note we have included the wife's name when we could find it, desiring to honor those brave women of pioneer days whose hardships cannot now be visualized. We're sorry, but we can publish only brief bits about each family listed.

ADAMS, John Sr.—Lived in Panola operating a blacksmith shop and a wagon factory about 1856.

ADAMS, Rev. William T. and Mary—Rev. Adams was a Presbyterian Minister, pastor of El Paso's first church in 1857, which he helped organize May 11, 1857. Had arrived in Woodford County as early as 1841 when he was preaching in Low Point area. He (or another of this same name) purchased the NE¼ of Section 24 in eastern Panola Twp. April 22, 1858, and Lot 8, Block 33 in El Paso July 26, 1864. He lived at 113 N. Adams St. at one time.

ADAMS, Dr. John Quincy and (1) Chelnissa D. Cassell (1823-1887), (2) Mrs. Mary (Tyire) Dorward—Dr. Adams was born at Cadiz, Ohio, February 18, 1818, and came to Illinois in 1855; altho he did not settle in El Paso until 1865, he became the father of prominent El Pasoans, including Melville A. Adams, Dr. J. Cassell Adams, later of Gridley, and seven others. He studied medicine at an Ohio Medical School, graduating in 1847. His first wife was a sister of Attorney Robert T. Cassell, and an aunt of former Postmaster M. H. Cassell who was killed in the Chatsworth wreck. They lived many years where Mrs. Beshers now lives at 51 N. Adams Street. Chelnissa died March 3, 1887, and the Dr. contracted his second marriage Nov. 29, 1888. He was a prominent physician here until his death July 17, 1895. He was a Republican and Presbyterian, and served on the City Council.

ALLEN, Horace G.—First Panola Township town clerk in 1855.

ALLEN, Isaac—Came from Tennessee and was living in Kansas Twp. area about 1833.

ALLEN, James K. and Mrs. M.—Came from another location in Illinois in 1844 to Woodford County and settled on 60 acres in the SE corner of Section 10, Kansas Twp.

ALLEN, William C.—Patented the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, Kansas Twp. September 8, 1836.

AMRINE, Dexter and Ruby Ann—Came to Illinois from Virginia in 1837 and settled later just north of the old Walnut School in Section 26, Palestine Twp. He purchased the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 29 in El Paso Twp. on August 8, 1855. A Mackinaw River Ford was sometimes called the "Amrine Ford."

ANDERSON, E. W.—Came from Indiana to Illinois in 1850, and settled on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8 in Kansas Twp.

ANTHONY, Dr. William C.—Practiced medicine in Bowling Green in 1837. He moved away in 1841.

ARMSTRONG, Alex—Came into Greene Twp. from Kentucky, possibly with John Armstrong in 1834. He patented the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22, Greene Twp. on November 16, 1849, and three other parcels in Section 27 in 1852 and 1853.

ARMSTRONG, Garrett and Malinda—Garrett probably came with his father, John H. Armstrong, from Mercer County, Kentucky in 1834 into Greene Twp. where he patented the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30 on February 23, 1846. He was born July 12, 1817 and died June 16, 1884 and is buried in the old Gabetown Cemetery.

ARMSTRONG, James—Patented the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27 in Greene Twp. on August 23, 1852.

ARMSTRONG, John H. and Elizabeth M. Garrett—Lived in Greene Twp. in the fall of 1834, coming from Mercer County, Kentucky, where he was born September 25, 1788. He died January 1, 1857 and is buried in the old Gabetown Cemetery. He was a veteran of the War of 1812. He patented the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 34, Greene Twp. on September 1, 1838.

ARMSTRONG, Stephen—Purchased the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 27, Greene Twp. July 24, 1854. He was the son of John H. Armstrong.

ARMSTRONG, William—The first school teacher in Greene Twp. in 1840, where a log school had been erected on Section 28, near Gabetown. The first school in that area, with the Willow Tree school the second, erected in 1840. He may have been unrelated to the other Greene Twp. Armstrongs.

ARNOLD, George M. and Sarah—They patented the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, Greene Twp. on January 3, 1839, and buried a daughter Eliza E. who died June 15, 1851, in Gabetown Cemetery.

ARNOLD, Isaac M. and Sarah V.—Lived in the Gabetown area of Greene Twp. in 1858, they buried a son Elmer, aged 1 year, who died September 29, 1858 at Gabetown. Mrs. Levi Smith was a daughter. Sarah V. Arnold was an artist, and painted the Andrew Carnegie portrait which hangs in the El Paso Public Library.

ARNOLD, James—Patented the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 28 of Greene Twp. on September 1, 1838.

ARNOLD, John and Eliza P.—John was born January 8, 1806 and died April 10, 1874. They came into Greene Twp. in 1839. They patented the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, Greene Twp., September 1, 1838. John and Eliza buried a child, which died January 8, 1846, in the Gabetown Cemetery. They later patented the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 27 on June 24, 1850 and obtained a patent to the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27 on June 10, 1851.

ARNOLD, Samuel and Rebecca—Lived near Bowling Green in 1836, but were living in Greene Twp. in 1850 where he was acting as School Treasurer. Samuel was on the first Bowling Green election Board, assigned from County Organization meeting, 1841, and on first petit jury panel at Versailles, 1841. He patented four Greene Twp. pieces of land in June of 1841—all were in Section 32.

ARNOLD, Steve—A Secor blacksmith at an early unknown date, probably 1857. He was born in Illinois in 1837.

ARNOLD, Wesley B. and Elizabeth—Arnold was born August of 1807 and died on January 27th, 1847. He patented the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, Greene Twp. on September 1, 1838. He was no doubt related to John and Eliza Arnold.

ARNOLD, William A. and Harriett—Lived in Greene Twp. in the early 1850's, as they deeded a part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28 on January 26, 1850.

BAKER, David—Came from Germany in 1837 to Woodford County and became an early farmer in Section 31, Palestine Twp. at a later date.

BARINGER, Jacob L. and Mary A. Cline—Jacob was the son of John L. and Sabina Baringer. He was born at sea in 1830 as his parents were emigrating to America. He died in 1909 and is buried in Secor Cemetery. He was on a rented farm in Greene Twp. in 1846, and purchased the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31 there on December 17, 1854, from the Illinois Central. A sister, Lydia Martha, married Joel D. Powell, parents of Lewis, Ira and Elizabeth Powell of Secor. Jacob and Mary Baringer years later owned the farm north of El Paso where their grand-daughter, Mary Alice Schertz and her husband Owen now live.

BARINGER, John L. and Sabina Elizabeth (1808-1886.)—John was born September 1, 1805 and died March 26, 1875. He and Sabina came from Germany in 1830 and on this trip their son Jacob L. was born at sea. They settled in Philadelphia, then Dayton, Ohio, and in 1846 they moved to land west of Gabetown, Greene Twp. and John worked in the Gabetown sawmill for two or three winters. They patented the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 30 on June 23, 1853, and lived on the south line of that 80 acres. John and Sabina buried a 21 year old son in the Gabetown Cemetery who died May 1, 1859.

BARNARD, Francis J. and Mara—Purchased the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36 in Greene Twp. on March 9, 1852. Francis was on Panola Twp.'s. first board of highway commissioners in 1855.

BARNARD, M. N.—Mr. Barnard was no doubt a relative of the other Barnards, and was in Greene Twp. at an early date, removing into Money Creek Twp. with Young Bilbrey in 1850, where both were in the Money Creek Christian Church a year or two later.

BARNARD, Simpson Y. and Lydia—Simpson was born October 3, 1804 in N. C. and died January 23, 1874 in Green Twp. He moved into Tennessee from North Carolina at an early age, and came from Overton County into Greene Twp. in 1833, a friend and probable relative of the McCord family.

He established the first post office in that area on the stage and pony-mail line of that day which was located on or near the old Elias Ray homestead, a farm today owned by Leo Render, and described as the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25, Greene Twp. It was then a "metes and bounds" survey, altho the land had been surveyed under the Jefferson system.

For an unknown reason the post office was named "Josephine" and lasted until the Panola post office opened in 1853. We know Barnard was Postmaster from 1836-1840, possibly longer. Barnard moved into Panola and built its first *new* store in 1853, another building having been moved in from Greene earlier, then operating as Panola's first establishment. He became Panola's first Postmaster, but later went back into Greene to live. He was serving as its Township Treasurer in 1869, five years before his death.

Simpson was one of the first panel of grand jurors at the first Court in Versailles, 1841. His earliest land patent was for the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26, Greene Twp. on June 18, 1836.

A three year old daughter, Mary J. A. Barnard died on Dec. 18, 1835, and was the first burial in the new "Harper" Cemetery, we believe. Two other children died later, and all with the parents are buried in "Harper".

An ancestor, Thomas Barnard, settled in America about 1650 and was one of 10 men who purchased Nantucket in 1659. Another ancestor, John Barnard married Bethial Folger, daughter of Peter Folger.

The Barnard family of the area descended from his brother, James Orsborne Barnard who settled in Dry Grove Twp. east of Danvers around 1828. They are ancestors of the Halls of Danvers.

BARNEY, Ebenezer and Elizabeth A.—Patented the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31 in El Paso Twp. on May 16, 1853. Calvin E. Barney, a relative, was an El Paso lawyer in 1865.

BARNEY, Hiram—Attended the 1st Methodist Conference held in Panola, November 7-8, 1857. He was still active in this church's meeting December 10, 1859.

BARRETT, C. W. and R. (wife)—Lived in the Kansas Twp. area in early 1853 and probably before. A daughter died January 29, 1853 and is buried in East White Oak.

BASSETT, Porter S. and Malvina—Lived in Greene Twp. in 1855. Porter was a farmer and cattleman. Mrs. Bassett was from New York state, and it was her suggestion that a Farmer's Club be organized. The first meeting took place in their home and the present club was organized on March 31, 1890.

BATEMAN, William N. and Louisa West—William was born in Ross County, Ohio, January 23, 1827, the son of William and Sue (Roe) Bateman. He came to Woodford County in 1844 and after service in the Civil War he settled on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9 in Kansas Twp. They were the parents of fourteen children of whom Christopher Columbus Bateman was one. He lived in late years in El Paso, where he died in January, 1953.

BAYNE, William C. and Caroline—Purchased Lot 12, Block 44 from Gibson on October 20, 1856 and erected a house on it, the first in El Paso to be completed. It is believed Thomas McClellan originally contracted for this lot and home and turned it over to the Baynes. The deed is directly from Gibson to the latter.

BEALE, Bennett N.—Purchased N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 27, Greene Twp. August 31, 1857.

BEAL, William and Elizabeth Margaret Slane—William was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, November 9, 1824, died in El Paso, Illinois March 6, 1905, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. He moved into Ohio in 1848, to Mason County, Illinois in 1853, and Greene Twp. in 1857. He married Miss Slane, who had come to Greene with her parents in 1853, on January 15, 1863. William and Elizabeth were the parents of six children, only one (William Irvin Beale, 1875-1902) living to adulthood. They moved into Panola Twp. in 1896, the farm is still owned by grandchildren.

BELSLEY, C.—Born in Illinois and in 1843 came to Woodford County. After Secor was founded he settled there and became a livestock dealer.

BENNETT, Eli and Elizabeth—Lived in or near El Paso in 1857, possibly earlier. Eli was originally from Trowbridge, England, coming to the U. S. in 1849. He was a cabinetmaker, who may have been associated with John Bennett in building the Union House in 1856-7.

BENNETT, John—Moved to El Paso in 1856 and built the Union House, El Paso's first hotel. It was located at the NW corner of First and Cherry Sts. W. R. Willis operated it almost at once after it was built by Bennett. It burned December 3, 1872, then being the City Hotel, and operated by Warner & Hart.

BENSON, James (1805-1883) and Polly Ann Hinshaw (1811-1869), John and William—Lived in Kansas Twp. in 1831. James and John took part in Black Hawk War.

BETTY, George W. and Lydia M.—Quit claim deed to W $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 32 El Paso dated March 1, 1853.

BETZ, Jacob and Suzannah—Jacob was born in Union County, Pennsylvania, moved to Ohio, and then to near Metamora, Illinois in 1850. They moved into Greene Twp. in 1856, buying land that year in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, afterward accumulating 320 acres there. There were four daughters born to Jacob and Suzannah: Mary (Wrenn), Della (Stretch), Hattie (Dunmire) and Dora (Kring). Jacob Betz was on the Board of the Methodist Church of Panola-El Paso in the late 50's, and his daughter Della Stretch preached for 70 years, addressing a congregation on her 93rd birthday.

BETZ, John and Liza—Lived in Greene Twp. in the 1850's. John was a brother of Jacob Betz. Their son, Andrew Betz, was killed in action in the Civil War. Another son, William Betz, took the measles in the Civil War and died soon after arriving home. He is buried in the Gabetown Cemetery.

BIEBES, Henry and Anna M. Flamm—Henry was born May 16, 1833 and died February 3, 1913 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. They were in Woodford County in 1858, but did not settle on the farm still owned by their children until 1862. Their children were Margaret, Linford J., Ephraim, Horace and William.

BIGGER, Captain James and Elizabeth Hart (1797-1863)—James was born in 1791 in Ohio. He died in 1841 SE El Paso and is buried in old Clarksville Cemetery. He was the son of John Bigger, a Virginian of Irish stock. James married a Miss Stewart in Ohio who died soon thereafter. He then moved near Spencer, Indiana, and there married Miss Elizabeth Hart who accompanied him to Illinois in 1836, bringing a 16 year old son, Pleasant, with them.

Captain James Bigger had a company of militia at the Battle of Tippecanoe, fighting under Colonel Bartholomew and General Harrison's over-all command. Captain Bigger may also have accompanied Colonel Bartholomew when his militia burned the Grand Kickapoo Village in West Twp., McLean County, Illinois in 1813. Both men were supporters of General Harrison, and both moved into Illinois together, and are buried near each other in the old Clarksville Cemetery. He remained a Whig politically. He is an ancestor of today's Bigger family in this area.

BIGGER, Pleasant H. and (1) Margaret Bell, (2) Elizabeth Hibbs, (3) Sarah Furman Scott—Pleasant was the son of the old Indian Campaigner, James Bigger. He was born July 21, 1820 and died July 4, 1904. He came into the area southeast of El Paso with his parents in 1836, and helped erect the first schoolhouse in that vicinity, the Log School, near "Coon's Ford Bridge". Later, he attended the school as a student. He is an ancestor of many of the Biggers still residing here, Judson Bigger being the son of Sarah Scott. He is buried in the Hibbs-Bigger Cemetery. He was a Baptist and a Republican.

BIGHAM, John R.—Charter member of the first El Paso church, Presbyterian, at its organization meeting on May 11, 1857.

BIGHAM, William R.—Came from Ohio in 1858 and became a carriage manufacturer in El Paso. He served in Company G., 4th Illinois Calvary in the Civil War

BILBREY, Allen—Born in Greene Twp. to Young and Amanda Bilbrey, an older brother of Eli Patrick Bilbrey.

BILBREY, Eli Patrick and Melisia Maple—Eli was a son of Young and Amanda Bilbrey, born in their Greene Twp. cabin on October 5, 1849. He died on April 8, 1930 and is buried in the Hinthorn Cemetery. Melisia J. Maple was born April 24, 1842 and died July 6, 1886. Eli and Melisia were parents of David Young Bilbrey and Ira Bilbrey, long residents of El Paso.

BILBREY, Young and Amanda Patrick—Young was born May 21, 1802 in Overton County, Tennessee and died in Money Creek Twp., McLean County, June 13, 1873. He is buried in the Hinthorn Cemetery. His wife was born October 31, 1805 and died August 26, 1883, is buried beside him. They migrated to Greene Twp. in the spring of 1830, (Radford's 1828 date being, we believe, in error) just before the "winter of the deep snows." To them in 1831 was born the first white child of record in the Greene area. "Young" was his mother's family name, and his given name.

Young patented the NW¼ of Section 25 in Greene Twp. on May 18, 1836, and owned other land soon after the surveys were completed, one being the east 80 acres of the Ray farm now owned by Leo Render, where S. Y. Barnard ran the post office "Josephine." They moved into Money Creek Twp. a year or so after their son Eli Patrick Bilbrey was born in Greene in 1849. Eli became the father of David Young and Ira Bilbrey of El Paso, making the Bilbreys the oldest family to continually live in our area. Allen Bilbrey and Polly Ann (Armstrong) were other children of Young and Amanda.

BILLINGER, William and Sarah A. (McManus) Brower—William was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 1, 1819. He came from Ohio to Illinois in a covered wagon in 1857 with Joseph Frey, and settled later on the S½ of Section 3 near where the east curve of the Peoria & Oquawka Railroad was built. Ten children were born to William and Sarah. He was a Presbyterian and a Democrat.

BISTORIANS, A.—Came from France to Illinois in 1851 and later settled in El Paso. He was one of our earliest bakers.

BLACKMORE, James W. and Emma Parkhouse—James was born in Devonshire, England, March 29, 1829. He came to America in 1851 and settled, possibly a little later, on the SW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 8 in El Paso Twp. on the James Parkhouse farm of 1954. James and Emma had no children.

BLACKMORE, James W. and Sophia Bird—James was born in Devonshire, England, November 6, 1829, and died near El Paso on September 18, 1917. He came from England in 1852 buying land in Section 27 of Panola Twp. and settling on its NE¼. Children born to James and Sophia were: William, Elizabeth, John and Douglas. James finally moved to Cullom, Illinois where he ran a hotel.

BLACKMORE, John and Elizabeth Romleau—John was born in Devonshire, England, January 20, 1832, and died near El Paso on June 16, 1884. He came to America in 1852 and settled on the SE¼ of Section 26 in Panola Twp. Children born to John and Elizabeth were: James, William, Sarah (Guard), Eli (father of John L.), Albert, (father of Arthur, Emmett, Claude and Clarence) Lillie, Lincoln, Charles, Hattie (Agnew), and Grant.

BLISS, John—Lived at Bowling Green at early unknown date.

BLUMENSHINE, Philip and Margaret Liebold—Philip was born in Germany in 1828, and died in El Paso in 1902. His wife was born in 1834 and died in 1916. Both are buried in Evergreen Cemetery. He migrated in 1838 with his parents, who settled in Tazewell County. After marriage, the couple came to the El Paso area in 1853, and probably rented the Shickendanz farm on the

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33 in Panola Twp., later purchasing it. They were the parents of William, Frederick, Henry, Richard, Mary (Slenker), Elizabeth (Johnson), Minnie (Crusius), Carrie May (Ruple), Jessie (Fisher) and Emma, who never married.

BODGER, John—Owned land in El Paso Twp. in 1855, and had been farming land northeast of Kappa in 1854.

BOIES, Wilber H. Sr.—Came from Livingston County, New York state and located in the new town of El Paso, Illinois in 1856, when the town only had five houses. He purchased Lot 6 and the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 5 in Block 45 from George L. Gibson on July 9, 1857. He engaged in the lumber business, and in grain and groceries. Wilber was a member of the Town Council, and Treasurer of the first Sunday School ever organized in El Paso. He moved to Watseka as TP&W Agent in January 1862, and later settled in Gridley, Illinois, where his grandson of the same name still is in the grain business.

BONAR, John Marshall and Celicia Jones—Came from Marshall County, Virginia in 1854 by boat, landing at Peoria, and settled first near Versailles, and in Greene Twp. in 1857, where their old home was in the center of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24, around which they had accumulated 800 acres of land by 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Bonar were charter members of the Panola and El Paso Methodist Church, established in 1857. Their children were: Sarah, Marshall, James T., Franklin M., Mary, Joseph L., Ida May, Rose Clare, Harriet, Elizabeth, William H., and Charles C. Mr. Bonar was born July 16, 1818, and died in Greene Twp. October 14, 1873.

BOWERS, A. J. and Susan—Came to Illinois from Ohio in 1857 and ran an early El Paso grocery store. They purchased Lot 10, Block 36 from Wathen on November 19, 1859.

BOWMAN, John—A Bowling Green resident at an early unknown date.

BOWMAN, M. Gilmore, and Eliza Ann—Their names are on early Methodist records for 1858, in the early Panola-El Paso church.

BRADLEY, Tobias S. and Lydia—Purchased Lot 2, Block 18 of Gibson on July 5, 1858.

BRANCH, Rev. William and Wife—Rev. Branch was the pastor of the first Baptist church in El Paso in 1858. He presided at the organization meeting of the El Paso Cemetery Association (Evergreen Cemetery) which was held August 11, 1859, then served as the Association's first president. He organized the first El Paso Baptist Church January 21, 1858 in Crawford's Hall which stood at the corner of Cherry and Second Streets where the Gayle Andrews residence now is. He purchased Lot 8, Block 32 from Gibson on July 22, 1859.

BRENN, Thomas H.—Came to Illinois from Pennsylvania in 1857 and became one of El Paso's earliest livestock dealers.

BREWER, John and Rebecca Cox (1800-1880)—They were Ohioans, who moved from Bloomington, Illinois to be the first pioneers to settle in Panola Twp., building their cabin in Shuck's Grove, then Brewer's Woods, one mile north of Panola in 1836. John was born May 1, 1805 and died in Panola Twp. on October 13, 1852. He is buried in the Harper Cemetery west of Panola. Rebecca, born in 1800, lived until September 18, 1880. A daughter was married to John Magarity, and the youngest daughter, Sarah A. Brewer, married John Tyler, long residents of the area. Sarah was possibly the first child born in Panola Twp. John and Rebecca owned land in Section 28 of Greene Twp. in 1850, and they patented the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19 in Panola Twp. August 31, 1852. Mrs. Brewer died at the home of her daughter, Sarah Tyler. The Brewer

School, perhaps first in Panola Township, was located on John and Rebecca Brewer's land.

BREWER, William W. and Mary J.—Related to Panola Twp. settlers, John and Rebecca Brewer; apparently settling their estate, we find him deeding to O. P. A. Meyers the NW¼ of Section 19 in Panola Twp. on June 8, 1857. William served with Charles Dobson as one of Panola Township's first constables.

BROWN, Alva C.—Came from Ohio to Illinois in 1852, and later became an early El Paso resident, a dealer in flour and feeds.

BROWN, E. S.—Came to Woodford County from another Illinois location in 1837 and settled then or soon after on the east side of Section 10 in Kansas Twp.

BROWN, James P.—Came from Ohio to Illinois in 1852, probably a relative of Alva C. Brown, and was old time railroad clerk in the early days of El Paso.

BROWN, James W.—Came to Kansas Twp. from Tennessee in 1831 and later settled in the NW¼ of Section 30, his cabin being near the center of that Congressional Township.

BROWN, Josiah L.—Came from another Illinois location in 1844 and settled on the SW¼ of the NE¼ of Section 9 in Kansas Twp.

BROWN, Nathaniel—Patented the E½ of the SW¼ in Section 20, Kansas Twp. on May 23, 1836.

BROWN, Zachariah and (1) Elizabeth, (2) Louisa—Zachariah was born in Tennessee August 14, 1812, and died May 14, 1865. He is buried in East White Oak Cemetery. He settled in Kansas Twp. before it was formed, in 1831, and before survey of the sections was completed. After the surveys, he patented the SW¼ of the SE¼ of Section 2 in Kansas Twp. on April 5, 1834, one of our earliest. The first Kansas school was taught by the Rev. Abner Peeler in 1850 in a log hut erected near the Brown cabin. A son died September 20, 1845, one of the first burials in the East White Oak Cemetery. He also patented land in Section 11, Kansas Twp. on January 4, 1836.

BRUBAKER, A. H. and (1) Catherine Schneider, (2) Elizabeth Brubaker—A. H. Brubaker was born in Pennsylvania on April 11, 1833, son of Jacob B. and Anna Brubaker. He came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to Greene Twp. in 1856, settling on the SW¼ of Section 4, prairie ground, the second farmer to venture out onto the prairie grass-land. He completed his purchase of this farm April 17, 1858. Maria, Elizabeth and Daniel Brubaker were in the early Panola-El Paso Methodist Church in 1858. Mr. Brubaker was a member of the State Legislature, and was the first man to use drain tile to dry the prairie land in Greene Twp.

BUCK, Daniel W. and Drusilla—Came from Pennsylvania in 1849 into Woodford County and settled on the SE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 29, Palestine Twp. by about 1854.

BULLINGTON, R. and M. J.—Lived in the Bowling Green area or town in 1838 when they buried a child in the cemetery there, which died on June 23, 1838.

BULLOCK, H. W.—Came from Kentucky along with Thomas Bullock in 1835. He was a Secor dry goods merchant in the late 1850's.

BULLOCK, M. R.—Came to Woodford County as early as 1834 and lived in our area, dates and place unknown. He was a relative of Thomas Bullock, County's organizer and founder, and Captain Wingfield M. Bullock, Commander of Company E., 108th Illinois Regiment in the Civil War. Captain Bullock then resided in Eureka, but for many years after the war was a prominent El Paso farmer, "Bullock's Grove" named for him.

BURGER, James Hiram Jr., and Elizabeth Potter—James was born in Georgetown, Indiana, August 31, 1846, and died near Kearney, Nebraska, March 1, 1919. He farmed many years near "Poketown" and clerked in a grocery store there. He later ran an early El Paso Hotel called the Summit House. There were eleven children born to James and Elizabeth. The family moved west in 1885.

BURGER, James Hiram Sr.—James was born in Kentucky February 25, 1800, and died in South Palestine Twp. May 17, 1875. He came into Illinois in 1854 or 1855, bringing an eight year old son, James Hiram Burger Jr. He farmed near the "Poketown" and Centennial Church area, where he is buried.

BURGER, Lemuel and Mary Engleman—Lemuel was born in Georgetown, Indiana on January 3, 1820 and died in El Paso on April 23, 1910. He and his wife came to Illinois in 1857 and settled in South Palestine Twp. where they lived until they moved to Iowa in 1883 and to Nebraska in 1885. Mrs. Burger died there in June, 1894. There were twelve children born to Lemuel and Mary. Lemuel married Mrs. Martha Warner on October 23, 1900, and lived then in El Paso. He is buried in the Centennial Cemetery.

BURTIS, D. H.—Came to Illinois from New York City in 1836 and became an early El Paso manufacturer in the late 1850's.

BUSCH, Charles—Came from Germany in 1850 and became an El Paso grocer in the late 1850's.

BUTCHER, David—Lived at Bowling Green in 1836.

BUTCHER, Jacob—Lived at Bowling Green in 1836.

BUTLER, David and H. J.—Lived in Bowling Green, Palestine Twp., in 1836.

CABLE, D. S.—Settled near El Paso in 1859.

CAMPBELL, George H. and Francis C. Henry—George was born in Monroe County, N. Y., November 6, 1837, died in El Paso on December 26, 1896. He is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery. He came to Chicago in 1856, working with the Illinois Central Railroad there and at Mendota and Lena, Illinois. He arrived in El Paso in 1858 to serve as IC Agent, soon also as TP&W Agent. This was in the old depot a block south of the Campbell House, which he built in 1862-3 at a cost of \$10,000. He was owner of a tailor shop with his brother-in-law, Smith Johnston, in which Sam Curtiss was employed as tailor. At one time he owned for a brief period in 1869 the NE¼ of Section 19 in Panola Twp. He served as Alderman, and in 1882 as Mayor of El Paso. (See Chapter 6, "The Campbell House.")

CAMPBELL, Thomas and Elizabeth—Lived where the windmill is, to the south of the old Charles Grieser residence on the farm owned by Mr. and Mrs. John G. Parr. He took over the old "Roxan" post office from Caleb Horn who first lived on this farm, when the latter moved into Kappa about 1853. A son, John F. Campbell, was killed by Hamilton's guerilla band in a raid on his trading post near Ft. Scott, Kansas, on May 17, 1858. The family was from Pennsylvania, and a daughter was an ancestor of today's Mayne family.

CANNON, Peter and Elizabeth Shoup (1831-1887)—Peter was born February 8, 1817 and died October 22, 1871. He lived in Secor in 1856, built third house there and ran the first boarding house in that house. He farmed east of Secor

on the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5 at a later date. When he died, his wife continued the farming operation for a time.

CARD, W. A.—His name is in the Panola-El Paso Methodist Church records of 1858.

CARLOCK, Abraham W. and Mary—Abraham came from Tennessee and settled in Illinois in 1827 and in Kansas Twp. near the Montgomery line in 1833, his cabin being on the north side of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20, Kansas Twp. It was included in the new Woodford County because he was an influential Democrat. White Oak was renamed Carlock for him about 1875. Abraham and his brother, Reuben, and one other fought with Andrew Jackson at New Orleans.

CARLOCK, Reuben and Amy—Reuben came to Illinois from Tennessee with his brother, Abraham W. Carlock, in 1827, and into our area in the Kansas Twp. in 1834. He became the first "overseer of the poor" in Bowling Green in 1841 when Woodford County was organized, and was also on its first grand jury panel.

CARR, Abraham and Maletta—Moved from Indiana into Palestine Twp. in 1857. Their daughter married Anderson Van Scyoc. Abraham and Maletta were later Kappa residents. Abraham was a Kappa carpenter, and was killed by falling off a building at the age of 60.

CARROLL, James and Mary S.—James was born June 18, 1822 and died in Gabetown May 26, 1865, and is buried in the cemetery there, often called the "Carroll Cemetery" because he lived just 50 yards north of that cemetery's NE corner. He was operating a saw mill in Gabetown in the late 1840's, possibly earlier. James patented the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33 in Greene Twp. on October 27, 1849, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the same Section on March 23, 1850.

CARVER, Jacob—Patented the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 20 in Greene Twp. on May 23, 1836. He is believed to have been a settler at that date. He was possibly the father of William D. and John Carver.

CARVER, John—Known to be in area before the Civil War.

CARVER, William David and S. (wife)—Lived along the Mackinaw River in September of 1854, when they buried a child in Messer's Cemetery. John Carver was a relative; probably Jacob Carver was too.

CASELL, Joseph J. and Mary A. (1843-1918)—Joseph was a son of pioneer Robert T. Cassell and was born near Metamora October 7, 1841. After being admitted to the bar, he moved to El Paso in 1867 and became associated with his father and Robert G. Ingersoll in a law firm. With the latter, John Burns and John T. Harper, he successfully defended George W. Kingston, Jr., against a serious manslaughter charge in 1868 for the killing of David J. Hedges. He served as the only judge of El Paso's Recorder's Court in 1869-1872. Joseph died in El Paso on November 12, 1880, when only thirty-nine, and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery.

CASELL, Martin H.—Son of Robert T. Cassell. Martin was an El Paso postmaster from 1880 to 1887. He then moved to Washington, Illinois where he was admitted to the bar and practiced law. He boarded the ill-fated Niagara Falls excursion train there the evening of August 10, 1887, and it was believed he intended to get off at El Paso. However, he was asleep, and went on eastward and was killed in the midnight wreck at Chatsworth.

CASELL, Robert T. and (1) Nancy Butler, (2) Rebecca Perry (1818-1874)—Mr. Cassell was born in Lexington, Kentucky, October 26, 1816, and came to Illinois in 1831 and to the Metamora area then or later, the first record showing him there in 1838. He first came to notice as bailiff in the celebrated

Melissa Goings case. She was defended by Abraham Lincoln in the Metamora courthouse in 1849; during a recess the bailiff allowed her a conference with her lawyer and that was the last ever seen of her in Illinois. Cassell accused Lincoln of "running her off." Lincoln said he didn't; that she asked for a drink of water, and Lincoln told her there was "mighty good water in Tennessee" according to the story of Cassell. (See: Ernest East, *Illinois State History Social Journal* for Spring, 1953 for this trial.)

Admitted to the bar in 1851, Cassell associated with Lincoln, David Davis, A. Gridley, Edward Baker, Stephen A. Douglas, Richard Yates, Sr., John A. Logan and a host of other famous men of that day, forming a law partnership with Robert G. Ingersoll after coming to El Paso about 1867. C. H. Chitty, county surveyor, who staked out El Paso in the spring of 1854, was his friend. Later law partners included his sons, Joseph and Martin, and Henry Grove and E. C. Ingersoll, both noted lawyers of Peoria who were overshadowed by the more famous Robert G. Ingersoll.

By associations and experiences, he is the most interesting pioneer lawyer of Woodford County. In his late days he went to Chicago where his daughter, Mrs. E. C. George cared for him and where he died, April 20, 1890. His body was shipped back to his old home at El Paso. The Rev. George Bell and pioneer Benjamin J. Radford officiated in the Methodist Church, after which the old settler was laid to rest in the Evergreen Cemetery.

CAUSEY, J. S.—A dry goods merchant in Secor at an early unknown date, who came to Illinois from Kentucky in 1835 and to Secor after it was founded.

CAVAN, Judge A. M. and Anna Rule—Judge A. M. Cavan was born in Pennsylvania May 13, 1838 and lived in Madison, Indiana from 1845 to 1851 when he moved to Springfield, Illinois. From 1853-1860 he lived in Canton, and then entered Lombard College, studying law. He moved into El Paso in the post-war days, studying in the offices of Harper, Cassell and Ingersoll, an important law firm of that era. Admitted to the bar in 1867, Cavan was elected to the legislature for one term in 1870, and was city attorney of El Paso for a number of years. He was appointed postmaster in 1887. He was elected County Judge in 1890 and served eight years. Judge Cavan was a prominent Democratic politician. There were six children

CAWLEY, Bryant—Came from Bedford County, Virginia to Woodford County in 1855, and settled in Greene Twp. He owned the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 29. He was the brother of John Cawley.

CAWLEY, John—Brother of Bryant Cawley. He came into Greene Twp. from Roanoke, Virginia in 1854, and settled on the prairie on the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 9.

CHAPMAN, E. R.—Came from New York City to Illinois in 1835 and to El Paso in the late 1850's when he operated an early mill.

CHAPMAN, J. P.—Came from another place in Illinois in 1836 to Woodford County. He settled then or later near the Mackinaw, on a timber patch in the east $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35, Palestine Twp.

CHILDS, Edwin A. and Mary A. Mann (1847-1899)—Edwin was born in Indiana, May 6, 1840. He came to the El Paso area in 1856. He began farming in El Paso Twp. in 1856. Edwin was a member of El Paso's famous Company A., 86th Voluntary Infantry, and was taken prisoner in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain. He fought at Perryville, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Resaca, before his capture. He was confined at Andersonville and two other prisons. He was a member of GAR Post 531, and for five years President of the El Paso Fair, and in 1900 was Supervisor of El Paso Twp. He died June 25, 1912 and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery.

CHISM, Jesse and Artimza (wife)—Lived in Kansas Twp. in 1856, possibly before. They buried a son in the East White Oak Cemetery, who died July 14, 1856.

CHLOPICKI, Major Ludwik Baron (1788-1869)—See Chapter 5 of this same title. He was an early El Paso restaurant operator. He came to El Paso in 1856 when the P&O Railroad was completed to this point. He had been a Major in the Polish Army; took part in a losing Revolution, was imprisoned, finally exiled. His Uncle was a General under Napoleon and a Dictator of Poland.

COGSWELL, James—Came to Woodford County from England in 1842 and sometime later settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19 in Palestine Twp. His home being on Meridian Road, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the intersection with Route 24.

COLBURN, John and Elizabeth—John was born in Grafton, N. H. and came to Palestine Twp. in 1842. He purchased the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 25. His son, Richard Colburn, a boy of five, made the trip with his parents to Illinois. Richard became the father of five sons, William, John, Cecil, Cory and Byron Colburn.

COLLINS, Moore—Came from England about 1858 and settled on Section 4 in Palestine Twp. near where the railroad crosses Panther Creek. He was a brickmaker, as well as farmer, and in his Secor brickyard was aided by his sons William and James.

COLLINS, William—Came from England as a boy with his father, Moore Collins, and became a brickmaker in Secor about 1858.

COLLINS, James—Came from England with his father, Moore Collins, about 1858, when they settled on Section 4 in Palestine Twp. and with brother, William, the family operated a Secor brickyard. James was the final one of the family to operate the plant.

COOK, Harry Dewitt—Originally from Oneida, New York, he came into the Hudson neighborhood in 1851. When the Illinois Central opened lands for sale, he tried to promote the town site three miles north of Hudson to be called Oneida, but failed to get the railroad crossing he hoped for. He purchased the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32 in El Paso Twp. from Sylvester Pearl August 30, 1854, and accumulated much land thereafter in both Woodford and McLean Counties. He moved to Kappa when it was founded and served as station agent from 1853 to August, 1861, and dealt in grain. That month he organized Company G. of the 4th Illinois Cavalry with all local men in it, resigning as a Republican member of the State Legislature to do so. He had been elected November 6, 1860 in the Lincoln election from a local area heavily Democratic. After advancing to Major, he returned home after three years service and was again elected to his old seat in the Legislature. Governor Oglesby then appointed him Colonel of Illinois Militia and sent him to New York City to look after the needs of Illinois soldiers in hospitals. Later he went to Washington, D. C. and served with distinction in this rehabilitation work at a time when there were no veteran's organizations to assist him. This work kept him from ever returning to Kappa, where his wife and daughter remained until 1869, when they too moved to Washington, D. C. A son, John Williston Cook, was president of Illinois State Normal University from 1890 to 1899, and of Northern Illinois State Teachers College at DeKalb from 1899 to 1919. (See: Robert D. Ochs: *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* for December, 1938.)

COOPER, E. (Mrs.)—Was Secretary of 1st Methodist Conference in Panola, November 7-8, 1857. She is believed to have been the same Mrs. Cooper who was El Paso's first school teacher in the private school at E. Handley King's residence. She was a sister of Handley King's mother.

CORBLEY, Thomas and Margaret Dempsey—Thomas was born in County Meath, Ireland, in 1835, and came with his widowed mother Ellen (Hanley) to America about 1842 and settled in New Jersey. He came west into Illinois in 1856 and in 1861 settled in El Paso Twp. as a farmer. There were four children born to Thomas and Margaret: John, Peter, Mary (Cleary) and Ann. Mr. Corbley was a Roman Catholic and a Democrat.

CRAM, Leland and Elizabeth—Purchased the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NE\frac{1}{4}$ and the $E\frac{1}{2}$ of the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 29, Greene Twp. on February 15, 1848, from Allen and Eliza J. Patrick, and settled there. The old "Cram" School No. 2 was named for them.

CRAWFORD, James H. and H. H.—James came to Illinois from New York state in 1856. He had a hall of some sort where Gayle Andrew's home now stands at the corner of Cherry and Second Streets, and helped organize El Paso's first Baptist Church in it on January 21, 1858. He purchased Lot 8 in Block 30 on April 5, 1858. He was a furniture dealer.

CROSLEY, William A.—Operated a Gabetown store around 1854 with Isaac Hammers, Sr. He and Thomas Patterson opened a store in Panola in 1854. Patterson sold out to a Mr. Lewis, and the firm was Crosley and Lewis thereafter. He purchased the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ of the $NE\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 7 in Panola Twp. on March 21, 1856 from a George H. and Lucy Crosley, who may also have been early residents there. William Crosley purchased his first land in Section 15 on August 23, 1854. He was Panola Twp.'s first overseer of the poor in 1855.

CROW, Peter—Early Secor Grain dealer who came there when the town was new, date unknown. He came to Woodford County from West Virginia in 1852.

CRUSIUS, Jacob Sr., and Louesa Stiegelmeier—Jacob was born in Bavaria, February 20, 1834, and at 18 came alone to America, landing August 19, 1853 after 52 days at sea. With only 45¢ left, he found work driving a horse for a canal tow-line, and arrived at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, about two weeks later when the boatowner gave him a dollar. He then found work in the mills until 1855, when he came to Panola, and found work on a nearby farm. That year he rode horseback over the trail to Kappa where clothing was sold. He married in 1863. Miss Stiegelmeier had come from Westphalia in 1852 with her parents. Purchasing a farm southwest of El Paso for \$9.00 per acre, they built a home and became the parents of 12 children, four dying in childhood, two in one night in 1872 when all the family but the father had the small pox. Known in our area were: Elizabeth (Dressler), Mary, Katherine, John, Jacob Jr., Ida (Mayne), Emma (Benson), and Millie (Krug). Mr. Crusius died September 20, 1920 and Mrs. Crusius on July 20, 1924.

CUMMINGS, Stephen—Came from Ohio in 1855 and settled on the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13, Palestine Twp. His home was at the west side of the section on the center line.

CURTISS, Samuel T. and Mary Kate Skinkle—Samuel was born in Binghampton, New York, December 4, 1830; died in El Paso on December 21, 1898. He came to Illinois in 1854, and to El Paso in 1864, a tailor in the Smith Johnson-G. H. Campbell tailor shop. Samuel bought the August Cazelot residence at 61 E. First St., still in use. Children born to Samuel and Mary were: George R. Curtiss, El Paso Journal publisher for many years; C. F. Curtiss, and Miss Cora Curtiss.

DAFFERN, Anthony and Sarah (wife)—Helped organize the first Baptist Church in El Paso on January 21, 1858.

DARLING, Levi—Lived in El Paso in 1857. He was in the Methodist Church organization in 1859.

DAVENPORT, William H. and Mary J. Willis—William was born in Kentucky on June 7, 1823, to William and Eliza Tribue Davenport. He purchased the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16 in El Paso Twp. from the State of Illinois (school land) on September 7, 1854. William was a graduate of Knox College in 1843. His wife was the daughter of Francis M. Willis, very early pioneer. (See "Bowling Green" in Chapter 3.) He died January 17, 1863.

DAVIS, David B.—Born November 30, 1811 in Cumberland, Maryland, and was an early resident of the Centennial Church area, where he died September 24, 1883. He was probably a relative of James M. Davis.

DAVIS, James M.—Born in 1820. He was a resident of the Greene-Panola area in the '50's. He died June 17, 1858 and is buried in Harper's Cemetery.

DAY, Rev. A. E.—Pastor of early Methodist Church in 1858 when Panola-El Paso held joint services in the ICRR freight depot. He may have been a circuit riding preacher and not an actual resident here.

DeBOLT, John Sr.—Came from Pennsylvania in 1854, and finally bought land and settled on the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31 in Panola Twp., the land which surrounded the St. Mary's Cemetery at its formation date.

DEHART, J. and M. R.—Lived in or near El Paso in 1859-60.

DEHORITY, Absalom and Eliza—Absalom was born in January of 1825, and in 1838 came to Illinois from Ohio. Sometime later Eliza and he settled on the center of Section 10, Palestine Twp., where he finally owned 320 acres of land.

DEINER, Christian and Margaret (1817-1896)—Christian was born in Germany on April 15, 1820. He came to a Palestine Twp. farm in 1855, having emigrated from Germany to Woodford County in 1850. He and Margaret lived just south of the railroad, on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4. Christian died at Secor, November 3, 1871.

DENMAN, John and Rachel Cotton—Lived in Palestine by 1840, when they were married. They owned land in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3 in Kansas Twp., purchased on January 8, 1853, and in Section 7, purchased on March 8, 1858.

DENMAN, Smith—Settled in Kansas Twp. along the McLean County line in 1829. He was from Ohio. Denman Creek is named for him. He later lived in McLean County.

DENMAN, William M. Sr.—Born in Essex County, New Jersey, December 7, 1807, and died, November 25, 1879. He came to Tremont, Illinois in 1842, made some unfortunate business ventures, finally opening a hotel known as the "Denman House" which he operated for four years. He then moved to Bowling Green, where he engaged in merchandising and again operated a small hostelry known as the Denman House. At both Tremont and Bowling Green he had such distinguished visitors as Abraham Lincoln, David Davis, Ashael Gridley, etc. Ruth J. Denman patented 120 acres of the present Robert Mayne, Sr. farm in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, El Paso Twp., on July 21, 1853, and William built the Mayne home, still occupied, in 1856, the oldest country home still in use near El Paso.

DEWEY, Mrs. Ann—Taught Kappa's first school in Caleb Horn's home in 1854. She was a sister-in-law to Admiral George Dewey's grandfather.

DIX, J. A.—Settled in 1858 on a farm in the SW¼ of Section 8, El Paso Twp. This farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Parr.

DIXON, Elisha and Mary—Elisha was a Mackinaw River miller in 1835. He patented the NE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 10, Kansas Twp. on December 24, 1835 and the SE¼ of the same on February 22, 1834. This patent is second only to Orman Robinson's in our entire five Twp. area. Robinson's was dated February 4, 1834.

DIXON, Joseph and Isabella—Patented land soon after Thomas Dixon did. They entered SE¼ of the SW¼ in Section 3, Kansas Twp., February 29, 1836.

DIXON, Manville—Early resident in South Palestine Twp. He is buried in the Centennial Cemetery.

DIXON, Smith and Dorliska Greer—Smith was born July 29, 1838 near Kappa and died May 10, 1912 at the same farm on which he was born. He was a son of pioneer Thomas Dixon, and Permelia Radcliff. Smith and Dorliska's children were: Elmer, William, Fred, Frank and Robert (who died young) with daughters Liona (Metzger) and Adaline (Woosley). Ward and Kenneth Dixon are grandsons. Smith lived on his father's farm in Section 31, El Paso Twp. all his life. The residence and buildings were south of the present day Kring buildings.

DIXON, Thomas and Permelia Radcliff—Thomas was born in Maryland on March 17, 1803. He died in Missouri, January 1, 1885. His wife, Permelia, was born October 6, 1811 and died October 28, 1863. Thomas was the son of John and Drussell Harvey Dixon; as a year old boy his folks moved from Maryland to near Winchester, Virginia. He was a relative of Jeremiah Dixon who surveyed the MASON-DIXON line. In 1826 (family records) he and his 16 year old bride came to Dry Grove in McLean County. (Other sources say 1829.) He hauled corn to Springfield, the nearest mill, for "cracking". He moved into Kansas Twp. near a ford on the Mackinaw in 1829 (?) which bears his name. Thomas built the first water powered "corn cracker" in the area, and enjoyed a good business, customers waiting their meal while they fished. He served as Major Stillman's teamster in the Black Hawk War, but was not present the day of "Stillman's Defeat." He did bury the dead, however, and then marched to Ottawa. His earliest land patent is for the NE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 3, Kansas Twp. and is dated June 25, 1835, with other Kansas Twp. patents in 1836. He then patented the W½ of the NW¼ of Section 31 in El Paso Twp. on April 16, 1841, having moved onto this farm in 1833. This farm is known today as the Harold Kring farm. His house was south of the Kring house. Children of Thomas and Permelia were: Anna (Ross), Helpa (Mrs. Snavelly), Smith and Allen Dixon. Smith Dixon was the grandfather of Ward Dixon; Evaline (McNaught); Ann (Ross); Caroline (Greer); and Charles (infancy). The Thomas Dixons were operating the mill in the "winter of the deep snows", 1830-31. Chicago was founded the year Dixon moved from the mill, and had 550 inhabitants. Thomas died at his son's, Allan Dixon, Judge in Joplin Missouri, but was returned to Centennial Chapel for burial in the old cemetery at that Chapel.

DOBSON, Charles—Panola Twp.'s first constable in 1855.

DONNER, Christian and Catharine Roge—Christian migrated from Germany to Illinois in 1823 and finally settled on the SW corner of Section 3 in Panola Twp. in 1856, after buying land there on November 22, 1854 from George W. Danforth. He also homesteaded ICRR land. He was the father of Peter Donner, former El Paso Mayor, who was born January 3, 1853 west of Metamora, where Christian had settled in 1849. General Clay-M. Donner is a grandson.

DONOHUE, David—Settled in Secor from Ireland in 1857 and became section boss on the new railroad.

DOWN, John and Anne Bailey (1841-1923)—John was an Englishman, who came into Woodford County in 1849 when 12 years old, and later settled on the N½ of the NW¼ of Section 36 in southeastern Panola Twp. He was born November 21, 1837 and died May 1, 1920. Children of John and Anne were: Minnie (Reed), Flora (Schofield), Louella (Biebes) and Alice (Yambert).

DUNHAM, Rev. John—Lived in the Kansas-Montgomery area as early as 1838. He was a circuit riding preacher.

DYE, James—A Virginian, who settled in Panola Twp. in the spring of 1855, when there were only 16 settlers there. He opened Panola's first lumber yard, and most all Panola's first homes were supplied from it. James was Panola Twp.'s first road boss.

ECKLES, Rev. John P. and Minerva (1809-1849)—Rev. Eckles was one of the early preachers along the Mackinaw River. He and his wife, Minerva, buried a child in Messer's Cemetery, which died October 26, 1848.

ELLIS, John and Mary Render—Both from England, she from Yorkshire. He was born November 6, 1816. They were in Palestine Twp. probably before 1857 when he owned the NW¼ of Section 14. He was later a grain dealer in El Paso. John was a Republican and Methodist. There were eight children born to John and Mary, one of whom was Mary (Hitch), who as a young girl waited on Lincoln and other 8th Circuit lawyers at the Denman House in Bowling Green where she was employed.

ELLIS, William—Born September 4, 1836 and died September 26, 1872. He was mustered in the army from El Paso on September 26, 1861 and discharged November 3, 1864. He is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery.

ENGEL, Christian and Magdalena Donner—Christian was born in Alsace in 1830, and died in Panola Twp. December 6, 1907. He was the son of Joseph Engel, who may have lived with his son in later life. Christian Engel came to Worth Twp. in 1836 with his parents, one of the earliest there. He bought the E½ of the NW¼ of Section 3 in Panola Twp. on November 21, 1854, and was living there by 1856. Ten children survived. He was a Democrat. He is not to be confused with another pioneer of the same name in Montgomery Twp.

EVANS, J. E., EVANS, John C.—Came to Panola Township and settled on rented land on Section 32 in 1856 along with Robert J. Evans, Sr. They were probably brothers.

EVANS, Robert J. Sr. and Nancy C. Gregg—Robert was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, June 11, 1817 and came to Woodford County, Illinois in 1855 and to Panola Twp. in 1856, living just east of the new ICRR at the north edge of Section 32. He died July 20, 1893. Robert and Nancy were the parents of Lewis K. and Robert J. Evans, Jr. and grandfather of Mack and Leslie Evans of Chicago. A child which died in July, 1857, was one of the several "transfer" burials in Evergreen Cemetery, organized in 1859. George and Walter Evans (see Chapter 17) are also grandsons.

EVERETT, Rev. W.—Believed serving a Kappa church in the late '50's. He died there April 12, 1861. He is buried in the Kappa Cemetery.

EVEY, John M. and Elizabeth D.—Came on into Greene Twp. in 1854 from Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and worked around the new town of Secor in the building trade, finally buying land and settling as a farmer on the southwest corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, his residence being about the middle of that Section and west $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from Gabetown.

EVEY, Michael—Came to Greene Twp. from Ohio in 1852. They were originally from Pennsylvania. There were twelve families in the Evey party which followed Michael into Greene Twp.

EWING, Rev. F. N.—Organizer and presiding officer of the first El Paso church, the Presbyterian, organized May 11, 1857. He may not actually have lived in El Paso, probably being sent here to organize the church of which Rev. W. T. Adams was the first pastor.

FISHBURN, Jacob and Mary (1808-1895)—Jacob was born March 31, 1804 and died in El Paso January 20, 1878. Hollanders, the family came from Pennsylvania by water in 1850, settling near Washington, Illinois. In 1854 they came by ox cart with daughter Jennie and son James, to a spot on the prairie two miles east and a mile south of the surveyed, but unbuilt, town of El Paso, where they built their cabin on the prairie, first to do so in that section. The "Fishburn School" nearby came later, and was named for them. They purchased Lot 6 in Block 45 from Gibson on July 9, 1857, and later lived there, the place being the George Burroughs location today. Their daughter, Jennie E. (Young, 1839-1912), in later life taught a private school there. Their son, James M. (1848-1931), was an El Paso dentist for many years.

FISHER, Josiah H. and Eliza M. Brown—Josiah was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, September 24, 1826 and settled in Greene Twp. in 1859 on Section 4. He came to Peoria on May 11, 1849 and worked there 10 years before settling on the farm. There were three children born to Josiah and Eliza: Benjamin, Thaddeus and Sarah Ann (1) (Parks), (2) (Stumbaugh).

FITZGERALD, Michael Sr. and Elizabeth Smith—Michael was born in Balingary, Tipperary, Ireland, April 16, 1830. He came to El Paso City in 1856, having migrated to America in 1849. He purchased 120 acres of Illinois Central land and was first to break it. There were eight children born to Michael and Elizabeth. Marie and James Fitzgerald of El Paso are grandchildren.

FOLKERS, Wirt—Settled in the SE corner of Linn Twp. in 1855 with sons, Charles and John. He moved from Germantown, among the first to "settle on the prairie" something their Germantown friends wouldn't do "if you gave us a free eighty" (Moore-p52.) His cabin on the prairie started these settlements in that area.

FRANKLIN, Jared D. and (1) Cynthia Hinshaw, (2) Louisa Brown—Jared was born in Connecticut November 28, 1814, and came to Illinois in 1837, and into Kansas Twp. in 1840, buying the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11 on February 15, 1851. He died in 1896 and is buried in the East White Oak Cemetery. He was Kansas Twp.'s first Supervisor when it was formed in 1860.

FREY, Joseph—Settled in Palestine Twp. in 1858. He was the grandfather of C. W. Frey, who was for years a Bloomington auto man. He came overland in a covered wagon with William Billinger from Ohio in 1857.

FURSMAN, Elias S. and Myra E. Pool—Elias was born August 16, 1837 in Niagara County, New York, and came alone to Bloomington, Illinois in 1855, where he worked in a store for two years. He then settled on 160 acres of Illinois Central land over the line in Waldo Twp. While he did not move into Panola Twp. until 1865, we list him because of his many activities. He established a nursery and sold fruit trees when they were badly needed in the new country. He sold the scrapers used with teams to do so much of the early open ditching and excavating and grading, and had the state agency for them. Elias and Lee S. Straight founded the El Paso Tile & Brick Works where our old "tile pits" were, until recently filled in. He then built what El Paso called the "Fursman Block"—four brick buildings in the east business district. He was a Mason, a Democrat, and a Methodist. Elias was a founder and the first president of the Farmer's Club. His father was William H. Fursman, who died in El Paso with his son and is also buried in Evergreen. Elias died in 1907.

GARDINER, James L.—Believed to have lived in the Kansas Twp. area. He was the first victim of a Woodford County Circuit Court action, April, 1842 at Versailles, where he was fined \$30 for "intent to inflict bodily injury." He was possibly the father of 14 year old William M. Gardiner, who died November 20, 1845, and is buried in East White Oak Cemetery.

GARDINER, John D.—An early El Paso resident, who told of passing through the future El Paso town site upon his return from the Black Hawk War campaigns to the north in the year of 1832. This is the oldest written record of a visitor in these sections, although others unknown must have passed through here earlier. Gardiner was born February 13, 1811 and died February 12, 1889, and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery. He wrote (in pension claim) that he "was bitten by a rattlesnake the last of August, 1832; marched to within seven miles of Rock Island, where a Fort surgeon named PHILEO treated me for cholera and the old snake bite."

GARDNER, Andrew J. B. (1830-1869) and wife, Elizabeth Angell—Lived in Panola Twp. in 1858. Andrew died June 29, 1869. Elizabeth died October 7, 1893, aged 56 years. They buried a son in the Evergreen Cemetery in 1863.

GARDNER, W. H.—Came from New York in 1856 and settled on the SE¼ of Section 20, the land east of Panola, then or a little later. He was an educator as well as a farmer and stock raiser, and in the early 1870's served as County Superintendent of Schools.

GASSNER, Lawrence (1844-1918) and Jane (1843-1916)—Lawrence emigrated from Germany in 1853, and settled then or later on the NW¼ of Section 17, Palestine Twp., his home being 1½ miles south of Secor on the west road.

GASTON, John R. and Frances—John was the first Greene Twp. Supervisor in the first session, April 16, 1855. He was at the meeting on May 11, 1857 in El Paso when its first church, The Presbyterian, was organized, and was a charter member.

GEIGER, Christian and Sarah Webb Young—Christian was born July 5, 1826 and died June 19, 1905. He and Sarah were early settlers west of Panola, moving to the NE¼ of Section 13, Greene Twp. in 1856. A son, Clay Clement

Geiger, was on American stages for years under the professional name of Clay Clement. A grandson, Clay Clement II (dropped the name Geiger) was on New York television programs in 1951. (See article on "Clay Clement" in Chapter 17, "Name & Fame.")

GEIGER, Lewis A.—Came into Woodford County from Pennsylvania in 1857. and settled on the middle west side of Section 33 of Panola Twp. (the Mrs. Roy Kingdon farm today). He was a farmer and stockman. He was a charter member of the first Panola-El Paso Methodist Church organized in 1857.

GEISELMAN, F.—Came from Germany in 1856 and settled then or later on the S½ of the SW¼ of Section 29, Palestine Twp.

GERBERICH, Andrew W. and Sarah Brubaker (1830-1907)—Andrew was born in Germany on July 2, 1816. He emigrated into Woodford County from Pennsylvania in 1839 and later settled on the W½ of the SW¼ in Section 2 where he and Sarah lived for many years, later known as the Frank Koerner farm. Major General Robinson E. Duff, a grandson, was born on this farm. (See Chapter 17, "Name and Fame," for article on General Duff.) Andrew Gerberich died December 10, 1905. He and his wife are buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

GIBSON, Cyrus—Brother of the town's co-founder, George L. Gibson, and with him, operator of the early lumberyard where the El Paso greenhouses are now. In 1868 the Gibsons sold out to A. S. McKinney who came from Elmwood that year, and James Hotchkiss, probably a relative of Eben who then lived here, and who moved from Peoria to El Paso in 1868. The Gibsons later operated a hardware store on the east side.

GIBSON, George L. and Matilda Heath (1825-1872)—George was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, October 2, 1818, and died in El Paso, December 21, 1896 and is now interred in the Evergreen Mausoleum. With James H. Wathen, he founded El Paso, Illinois, patenting the land on September 18, 1852 and staking out the Original Town as of April 20, 1854. He was then a resident of Henry, but his home had been in Washington. He served twice as Mayor, and often as Councilman. George built the "Cryer Apartments" as his home, finally selling it to his son-in-law, Ed A. Hodgson, after which he lived nearby at 487 Elmwood Court with his son-in-law and daughter, Mrs. May Gibson Fleming. He served on the committee which purchased Evergreen Cemetery in 1859. (See Chapter 4, "Railroads and Founding Fathers.")

GINGERICH, Daniel and (1) Adelia Engel, (2) Missouri B. Bateman—Daniel was born in Germany, April 29, 1832. He came into Illinois from Germany in 1852 and later settled on land just north of the Mackinaw River in Sections 5-6 of Kansas Twp., buying a part of it in 1867. He eventually accumulated over 700 acres in the area there. Gingerich operated the mill and the distillery located near Moore's Mill, where Ancil Shoup lived in 1853. For ten years he was an El Paso saloon owner.

GISH, Christian and Mary Catherine Pleasants—Bought a "metes and bounds" survey in the NW corner of the SW¼ of Section 28, Greene Twp., November 22, 1851.

GISH, Gabriel—The Pleasants family records say a "Gabe" Gish ran the Gabetown store when their ancestors arrived there in the fall of 1857, and that it is probably for him the town was named, although early histories say it was for Gabriel Woods, later a Lieutenant in a Civil War company. The Woods family also lived nearby. It was possibly because of two "Gabes" that the town was so named.

GISH, James R. and Barbary—Bought N½, and the E½ of the SW¼ of Section 28 in Greene Twp. July 5, 1851.

GISH, Josephus A.—Bought the $S\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NE\frac{1}{4}$ of the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, Greene Twp. January 31, 1853.

GISH, Rufus A.—An early Methodist, whose name is in their 1858 records of the Panola Circuit.

GLESSING, John M. and Mary Rehmann—John was born in 1821 and died December 10, 1893. He came from Germany to the U. S. A. around 1838 and into Woodford County in 1843 and worked as a carpenter, and cabinet maker. He bought a farm but a tenant actually operated it, this being the $SE\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27 in Panola Twp. There his daughters Emma and Anna were born, and sons Albert and Alfred. The family moved into El Paso in 1882 and there were born Dorothea, Barbara and Frederick, in the Adam Tompkins house at the edge of town. They later moved into the McClafferty house just south of the Jefferson Park.

GOEBEL, George—Came from Germany in 1858 and engaged in farming in El Paso Twp.

GOTTLEAF, Joseph—Name is in Methodist Church records of 1858, where his last name was spelled "Godlieaf".

GOUGH, William R.—Born October 21, 1821 in England. He followed the sea, coming to America in 1842, to Illinois in 1855, and to El Paso about 1858 or 1859. His father was Joseph Gough, who married a Sarah Rushton, never came to America. William R. Gough lived in 1870 on the present day Paul North farm where Josephine (Barnard) was born. Other children were Rushton W. and Miss Sarah, who never married. The later Gough home was where H. C. Adams residence now is.

GRAFFT, David Sr. and Diana Grove—David was born in Eaton, Ohio, August 6, 1829 and came into Woodford County near Eureka in 1850. He purchased land in El Paso Twp. in 1852, and was buyer of Lot 11, Block 39 from Gibson in El Paso October 13, 1856. He was living on the "west side" when he signed the Wathen petition to form the school district over there in 1858. David was a Civil War veteran who retired to Eureka in 1899. His son, David, again lived here in later years. The father was a Presbyterian and a Republican. He served in Company 'A., 129th Infantry Regiment in the War.

GRANT, Joseph and Mary A.—Joseph's name appears in the Methodist Church records at Panola when the church was in its second year. They probably lived in Palestine Twp. as they buried children in the Centennial Cemetery in 1854, and are themselves interred there.

GRAY, R. E.—Lived in Kappa area in the '50's. He has a baby buried in the Kappa Cemetery which died February 9, 1857.

GRUNDY, Thomas and Mary A.—Thomas was born October 3, 1822 and died November 19, 1890. He and Mary are buried in the Baughman Cemetery. Grundy children's names appear on the 1858 Methodist Church records in Panola church. They no doubt lived in that township.

GUARD, John and Elizabeth Bird—John migrated from England in 1851 and like many early settlers here, first lived near Kickapoo in Peoria County. He settled on the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34 in Panola Twp. in 1863. He was the father of Frank and James H. Guard, and grandfather of Arthur J. Guard.

HAAS, Joseph Sr. and Mary Simon—Joseph was born in Spring Bay September 9, 1843, the son of John and Anne Haas, very early Woodford County settlers (1836). Joseph Sr. moved onto a Panola Twp. farm in 1864. They were the parents of Joseph P., Andrew F., Arch S., Ralph B., Emma R. (Pfister), Angie E. (Fulton) and Tresa (Kinsella).

HAAS, Peter Sr. and Anna E. Reising—Peter was the son of John and Anne Haas, who came to Spring Bay in 1836. He was born February 14, 1848 and died in El Paso on February 16, 1942. He attended old Jubilee College 15 miles northwest of Peoria in 1866. He lived along the Illinois River in the west side of the county for some years, finally settling on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27, Panola Twp. where Charles Bailey lives in 1953. This farmer and stockman came into El Paso in 1886 and engaged in the plumbing business for many years at 27 E. Front St. Peter and Anna were the parents of Peter Jr., Frank, J. Rolland, Louisa (O'Neil), Anna M. (Krones), Edwina M. (Brown), Clara J. (Clark), and Florence (Barclay). Peter Jr. and Frank joined the firm in 1905; and in 1917 the Haas How Co. became the Haas Plumbing Co. Peter Sr. retired in 1921, his two sons taking over. Finally on March 1, 1937 the business became Peter Jr.'s alone, and he continued it until January 20, 1947. It was 62 years in operation under the Haas name.

HAHN, Abram—Settled in Greene Twp. woods in 1833. He was a German from Ohio.

HALL, Henry and (1) Ann Hartley, (2) Jane Healy, (3) Mary A. Chadwick—Henry was born in England June 11, 1824 and died in Panola Twp. January 2, 1896. He migrated to America in 1850 and settled finally on prairie land in the SW corner of Section 10, Panola Twp. where he engaged (in 1865) in farming and raising livestock for many years. He was the father of Riley H. Hall (1860-1939); grandfather of Mrs. Edna Agnew, Mrs. Ella Kingdon and Ted Hall.

HALL, Zachary—His name is on Methodist records of 1857-58. He was the presiding elder of the first Methodist Conference ever held in our area, at Panola, November 7-8, 1857.

HAMM, Walter H. and Lucinda Allen (1847-1910)—Walter was born September 6, 1830 in Pine Plaines, New York and died September 13, 1908 in El Paso, Illinois. He came to Hennepin, Illinois in 1854 and to Panola, Illinois in 1859 where he ran a hay press. He was a landowner in 1861 in Panola Twp. He was the father of Ira L. Hamm, Susie (Pitman) and Miss Clara Hamm. Walter helped organize the United Brethern Church in Panola, and was its first Sunday School Superintendent.

HAMMERS, Isaac Sr.—Operated a store in "Gabetown" with William Crosley in 1853, moving it into Panola when the railroad came through there. Hammers sold his interest to Thomas Patterson.

HAMMERS, James—Early Greene Twp. settler; relative of others in this family.

HAMMERS, Jesse and (1) Eleanor Buckingham, (2) Ruah (Garrison) Buckingham—Jesse was born May 7, 1804 in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Eleanor died in 1850. They were early Greene Twp. settlers, patenting the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13 on August 28, 1852, after buying land (E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16) from James Hammers on March 7, 1851. In 1853 Jesse patented Section 16 land in El Paso Twp. with Edgar Babcock. From Greene County, Pennsylvania, they came to the Cazenovia area in 1835 and to Greene Twp., which they named after their home county sometime in the late 1840's. Jesse was the first President of the County Agricultural Society and a Vice-President of the Tonica & Petersburg Railroad, throwing the first shovel of dirt in its construction. He died September 3, 1881.

HAMMERS, Joseph S. and Ellen—Lived in Greene Twp. in 1857. Joseph was a son of Jesse Hammers, and father of Isaac B. Hammers, long time El Paso

Attorney and once a State Legislator. There were at least two other Joseph Hammers. Joseph S. finally owned 440 acres in Section 14 of Greene Twp. and lived near the center of the south side of that section.

HAMMERS, Joseph T. Jr.—A Justice of the Peace in Greene Twp. in 1852-3. It was possibly this Joseph Hammers who purchased the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11 on November 8, 1855.

HAMMERS, Joseph T. Sr. and Phoebe T.—From Greene County in Pennsylvania, settling in Greene Twp. about 1850. There were two other Joseph Hammer's. Joseph T. Sr. patented his first land in Section 21 on June 12, 1851.

HAMMERS, M. B.—Born in Metamora area in 1838, probably a son of Jesse Hammers, who came into Woodford County in 1835. We find M. B. Hammers acquiring a total of 525 acres of land in Greene Twp. Sections 21, 22 and 28, his home being at the road crossing in the middle of Section 28.

HAMMERS, Samuel and Melissa—Lived in Greene Twp. with the other members of this family probably as early as 1850, when he patented the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14 in Greene Twp. on July 1, 1850.

HANNA, J. H. and Eliza Fishburn—J. H. Hanna was born 1-9-31 and died 5-7-85. Eliza was born in 1837 and died in 1908.

HANNA, O. D. and Ann—O. D. Hanna was the first Assessor in Greene Twp. in 1855. He sold SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22 on December 4, 1854.

HANNAH, Joseph J. and H. S.—Lived in or near El Paso in 1858. They buried a son in Evergreen who died April 26, 1858. Joseph Hannah's name is on Methodist Church books of Panola-El Paso Circuit in 1858. He served on Panola Twp.'s first board of highway commissioners in 1855.

HARPER, James M.—Came from Indiana in 1854 with William W. Harper, and settled in Harper's Grove, later in El Paso, where he became an early manufacturer.

HARPER, John T.—John was born near Lafayette, Indiana, November 20, 1840, and died in El Paso on February 5, 1878 at the age of only 38. He came to Illinois in 1854 with his father, William W. Harper, pioneer of Harper's Grove west of Panola. He was a teacher, lawyer, and soldier member of Company G., 4th Illinois Cavalry, many of whose members were recruited by him. He was a Lieutenant, and was brevetted a Lieutenant Colonel after the battle of Shiloh. A graduate of Chicago Law School, he set up legal offices in El Paso in 1865 after the war, and for a time had a partnership with Robert G. Ingersoll of Peoria and J. J. Cassell of Metamora, who moved to El Paso. He was a prominent charter member of GAR Post named for S. T. Rogers. He founded the *El Paso Journal* on April 5, 1865, but soon sold it, devoting his time exclusively to his law practice. He was one of the defense counsel in the Kingston manslaughter trial.

HARPER, William W. and Sarah J.—William was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, March 16, 1815, and died near El Paso on September 7, 1887. He came into Harper's Grove in 1854 from Indiana, after buying the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36 in Greene Twp. on August 12, 1853. There he eventually accumulated 600 acres, and Harper's Cemetery is named for him although there were burials in it twelve years before his arrival. He was one of the first Police Magistrates of Greene Twp. after it was formed in 1855, the other being Benjamin Sample. He was the father of John T. Harper, noted El Paso teacher, lawyer and soldier.

HARSEIM, Rudolph and Katharina—Early Secor area residents. Rudolph was born May 8, 1830 and died December 21, 1905. Katharina lived from 1836 to 1921.

HART, Allen and (1) Lucy Willis, (2) Ann Baldridge—Allen was born in Westchester County, New York, September 26, 1803; of English ancestors who first came to America in 1632. He came to Illinois in 1836, settling near Hudson for a year. In 1837 he built his cabin on a knoll on the prairie on the south center line of Section 27, Palestine Twp. This was replaced by him and the house still stands on the knoll, owned by his grandson, Allen Hart Hawks. He was threatened because he was known to operate an underground "railroad" station there. He eventually acquired over 1,000 acres of excellent land, mostly eastward from his home, and he also bought the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34 in Greene Twp., January 1, 1857. He was Palestine's first supervisor when the township was formed, and he was a member of the first Woodford County jury in Versailles in April, 1841. Abraham Lincoln was an Attorney in the first case tried: "The People, vs James L. Gardiner; attempt to do bodily injury." The verdict was "Guilty, \$30.00 and costs." Hart was a passenger on the first scheduled passenger train to come into Kappa; it arrived there May 23, 1853. Hart died October 29, 1879, and is buried in the Kappa Cemetery.

HARVEY, Gershom—Perhaps the first farmer in the south Palestine area; some records state he was there as early as 1825. If this is true, he was the earliest pioneer into our five township area. We cannot verify, and doubt the authenticity.

HARVEY, William T.—Lived in Greene Twp. in the '50's. He died April 29, 1860 when he was 28 years old. He is buried in the Gabetown Cemetery.

HASSEN, Matilda—Kappa's first school teacher in 1856, after the first school-house was built.

HAUSSLER, Francis X. and (1) Magdalena Dietz (1821-1887), (2) Emma R. Prescott—Francis was born in Alsace, France, March 3, 1834 and came to America with his father, landing July 2, 1841. He lived in New York until 1858 when he moved to the new town of Secor. He was Secor's first furniture dealer, and also its cabinet maker and undertaker. His second marriage was in 1892. One oddity: he went from one religious denomination to another in frequent turns: Roman Catholic, Methodist, German Evangelical and Christian Scientist. He retired about 1900. His date of death is unknown, but burial is in the Secor Cemetery.

HAWKINS, Lamar—Active in the 1858 Methodist Church in the Panola Circuit.

HAWTHORNE, Alexander—Lived in or near El Paso in 1859 when he served on the purchasing committee for the Cemetery Association.

HAY, Captain Gardiner (1802-1861)—He is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery. Nothing is known of him or his war record. He must have been in the Mexican or Indian Wars.

HAYES, Isaac—Early Bowling Green resident.

HAZELTON, Helen—Bowling Green's first school teacher.

HAZEN, Azro—Purchased the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 27, Panola Twp. on April 28, 1856. He was a brother of Mrs. Frederick T. Waite.

HAZLETT, Benjamin—He is believed to have been El Paso's first resident. William Ostler's diary states he was operating a restaurant in the only building in town in 1855, and therefore, he was serving meals before "Count" Chlopicki arrived, to live in the same building. Bestor testified he owned this building that Chlopicki lived in; Wathen testified "Bestor moved the only building he ever owned out of El Paso", i. e., south of the Wathen-Gibson land, to railroad land. Bishop Samuel Chase baptised a Hazlett child at this old one-story depot-restaurant in 1856, no doubt the first religious act in town, according to the St. Andrew's Church baptismal record. Later, a two-

story depot and freight house was built and the one-story building then was only a restaurant with an extra room or two for rent. We do not know what happened to Hazlett, who was not heard of after 1869.

HEBDEN, William—An early El Paso jeweler who came from England to America in 1853. His Hebden Building where the Woodford County National Bank now stands was erected prior to 1869. It was finally replaced by the Hendron building which name similarity has caused much confusion, with two other buildings in the west block also being built by James Hendron.

HELLER, Peter—Came from Dep. de Barhein, France, in 1857 and settled on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11 in Greene Twp.

HENDRON, William—Lived in Secor at an early date, teaching it's first school-room in 1857.

HEREFORD, Arthur Lee—Son of Leven P. Hereford, and born in Palestine Twp. April 1, 1858. He was a one time owner of the *El Paso Journal* (December, 1880 to January, 1885).

HEREFORD, B. P.—A brother of Leven P., who also came from Loudon County, Virginia to Washington, Illinois in 1836 and into Palestine Twp. about 1852 or just thereafter, settling on the West $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2, a neighbor of the Gerberichs.

HEREFORD, Leven P. and Louisa Powell—Leven was born March 3, 1815 at Leesburg, and came from Loudon County, Virginia, to Washington, Illinois in 1836, and to Palestine Twp. in 1852, where he owned and lived on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, just south of Secor's site. The family was descended from General Nathanael Greene of Revolutionary War fame. He was the father of Arthur Lee Hereford, one time owner of the *El Paso Journal*. L. P. Hereford was a Palestine Justice of the Peace in 1858. L. P. was reared by his grandmother, Virginia Powell Hereford (granddaughter of General Greene) and she spent her old age in Illinois with her children.

HERMAN, Michael—Came from France in 1855 and settled on rented land in Section 9 of Kansas Twp.

HETRICK, Jacob—Lived in Panola or Greene twps. in 1842 or earlier. He was born in September, 1795 and died August 29, 1851, and is buried in Harper's Cemetery. A son, Jacob Jr., died November 3, 1842 at the age of 8.

HEWITT, Henry H.—El Paso's first public school teacher. Miss Jennie Fishburn assisted in teaching until around 1861. It was a one-room school, located near Olive Engel's home at 125 East Second Street. The building is today remodeled, and is the Shuman home at Cherry and second streets. The first private school was held in 1856 on the site of the D. H. Roth home, First and Pine streets, then the Handley King residence, and Miss Fishburn had attended it. Hewitt was a charter member of the El Paso Baptist church, and attended its organization meeting on January 21, 1858.

HEWITT, James T.—A charter member of the first Baptist Church organized on January 21, 1858. He was a relative of Henry H. Hewitt. James was the first sexton at Evergreen Cemetery and served twenty-seven years.

HEXAMER, David—Bought W $\frac{1}{2}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 5 of Kansas on June 7, 1852.

HEXAMER, Jacob Jr.—Jacob Jr. was the son of Jacob Hexamer, Sr., who came into Woodford County from Ohio in 1857, probably with his father. He was a farmer in the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, Palestine Twp. He also did carpenter work.

HIBBS, David and Susan—They built their cabin in El Paso Twp. in 1835, and patented the land, the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 28 on January 26, 1839 and November 1 of the same year. The January patent was only two days after brother John got his, earliest in El Paso Twp. David and Susan lost a girl baby, which died June 19, 1849 and was probably El Paso Twp.'s first burial in the Hibbs-Bigger Cemetery. David Hibbs began building the first house in El Paso in 1856; it burned on April 30, 1890. The Hibbs were from Ohio.

HIBBS, James M.—Born on an El Paso Twp. farm in 1840, probably the earliest in the township. He was a grandson of Samuel and Eve Hibbs, but we do not know which of the three Hibbs were his parents.

HIBBS, John and Hannah—They built their cabin in El Paso Twp. in 1835, with their brothers the earliest here. They patented the land, the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28 on January 24, 1839, first of record in El Paso Twp. under the Jefferson survey system, showing these section surveys must have been completed about 1838. John and Hannah were from Ohio.

HIBBS, Samuel and Eve—They are believed to have been the parents of the Hibbs Brothers who were El Paso Twp.'s earliest settlers, William, John, and David. Samuel Hibbs may not have arrived in Illinois, but Eve came on to live with her children. She died here July 20, 1862, and is buried in the old Hibbs-Bigger Cemetery. She was then 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old, having been born on January 13, 1775....before Paul Revere's ride!

HIBBS, William and Nancy—Came from Ohio with the other Hibbs' and settled northeast of Kappa's site in 1835. Their first land purchase was on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32 in El Paso Twp. in 1850.

HICKLE, J. and H. J. (wife)—Lived along the Mackinaw in September, 1851 when they buried a child.

HILL, Daniel and Mary A. Hodgson (1838-1925)—David was born May 12, 1832 and died June 25, 1902. He came to Woodford County from Ohio in 1858; purchased land in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28 of Panola Twp. (where William Steffen now lives) and engaged in farming and livestock raising. Daniel and Mary were charter members of the Farmer's Club.

HILSABECK, David W.—David was born January 9, 1819 and died January 9, 1905. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. He was a Civil War veteran. He came to Cazenovia from North Carolina in 1851, but fought with the Union Army. David owned land in Section 6 of Panola Twp. and engaged in farming and livestock raising after the Civil War.

HINSHAW, George and Susannah—Settled in Blooming Grove where Bloomington now stands in 1827, and on January 12, 1835 patented their first Kansas Twp. land, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1, and on the same day, the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 14. They later accumulated much other land. They moved on a Kansas Twp. farm in 1840. Jehu Hinshaw was a son.

HINSHAW, John and (1) Cynthia Ann Peeler (died May 30, 1859.), (2) Mary Ann Rhodes—John was born February 19, 1819 and died January 29, 1903 and is buried in East White Oak Cemetery. He settled in the White Oak Grove there in 1840, possibly earlier. Their first land patent is dated June 19, 1840 in Kansas Twp.

HINTHORN, Adam Jr. and Mary Ogden—Adam was born south of the Mackinaw on January 13, 1828, the earliest birth of record in our area, although it was in Money Creek Twp. in all probability. He died February 12, 1906, and is buried in the cemetery named for his father. Mary Ogden was born October 20, 1829 and died January 8, 1925, one of the pioneer women to live well into the

Twentieth Century. Adam Jr. was no doubt that area's oldest life-long resident.

HINTHORN, Adam Sr. and Cerena Patrick—Adam Senior was born April 17, 1794 and died September 15, 1857. His wife, one of the Patrick girls, was born March 20, 1800 and she died March 4, 1878. She had come into the area south of the Mackinaw in 1827, and her relatives were in Greene Twp. in 1829. They buried a son in a plot on November 9, 1850, and the cemetery has since been called the "Hinthorn Cemetery." Adam Jr., survived; his birth, south of the Mackinaw on January 13, 1828 is the earliest of definite record in that area. Adam may have been a Bowling Green resident for a time around 1840.

HINTHORN, A. and M.—Lived south of the Mackinaw in the early 1850's.

HINTHORN, John and S. A.—Lived south of the Mackinaw in the early 1850's. John had no doubt been a settler at a much earlier date since we find he patented the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8 in Kansas Twp. on May 18, 1836.

HINTHORNE, George—Came to Illinois from New Jersey in 1859, and engaged in farming on land purchased in Section 21, El Paso Twp.

HITCH, Isaac and Annie—They bought El Paso lots in the late 1850's

HITCH, Robert Sr. and Mary Denman—Robert was born in 1805 and died in 1877. Mary was born in 1813 and died in 1891. Robert Hitch, Jr. was a son. Mary was a sister of William Denman, early Bowling Green and Tremont inn-keeper.

HITCH, Robert Jr. and Mary Ellis (1841-1931)—Mary Ellis as a young girl worked in the "Denman House" which stood on the south side of the Peoria road at old Bowling Green. There she waited on tables when the 8th Circuit lawyers stopped, and on two or three occasions served Abraham Lincoln along with the others. Some of those dishes remained in the Hitch family, but are now lost. (See Chapter 3, "Timber Towns That Died"—Bowling Green.) Robert was born in 1840 and died in 1933.

HODGE, Richard and Susan—They were both born in Devonshire, England, Richard, September 8, 1801, and Susan, January 26, 1817. He died April 17, 1870 and she on May 9, 1877. Richard was an 1857 pioneer in Panola Twp. and a brother of Robert Hodge of east Palestine Twp. Richard's daughter Mary married Henry Kingdon.

HODGE, Robert and Catherine—They were both born in Devonshire, England, Robert in Dolton on April 17, 1823 and Catherine at Tawsstock, March 12, 1824. Robert died September 10, 1888 and his wife on July 13, 1874. They were pioneer residents who settled on NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14 in eastern Palestine Twp. about 1857.

HODGSON, Jesse and (1) F. T., (2) Olevia—Jesse was born April 25, 1829 and died October 6, 1903 and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery. His first wife, F. T. died October 30, 1862 and his second, Olevia, November 22, 1902. He was related to Levi and was a pioneer in the area north of El Paso, in Panola Twp. He purchased the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, Panola Twp. from the ICRR on June 12, 1856.

HODGSON, Levi and Anna Bennett—Levi was born June 22, 1826 and came to Tazewell County from Ohio in 1832, finally settling on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 28 in Panola Twp. in 1856. He had married Anna Bennett in 1847. There were said to be only 16 families in Panola Twp. when they settled there. The "Hodgson School" was on his farm corner, and was named for him.

HODGSON, William and Phoebe—Were from Tazewell County as was Levi Hodgson, and came to the S½ of the SE¼ of Section 28 in Panola Twp. around 1856. They finished their payments to the ICRR and received their deed June 8, 1860. They were the parents of Edwin Hodgson, long time Panola Twp. horse importer, and grandparents, of Eugene M. Hodgson, retired Minonk druggist.

HOGELUCHT, Wilke C. and Mrs. Gerte (Johnson) Redenius—Wilke was born in Friesland in 1830, he migrated in 1854 and came from Hanover, Germany, to Greene Twp. in 1856 and settled on the N½ of Section 18, which he purchased May 1, 1858. He had come by sailing vessel to New Orleans, then up the Mississippi and Illinois to Peoria, and first rented land near Washington, Illinois. His father, Carl W. Hogelucht, followed his son to America and lived also for a time in Greene.

HORN, Caleb and Elizabeth Ann—Came from Indiana to Illinois in 1842 and was living southwest of El Paso (probably as a squatter) from about that date until 1853 when he moved into Kappa to take an agricultural job. His first of several land purchases was June 19, 1851, when he bought the SE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 19 in El Paso Twp., and he later owned land in Section 16 and 32. The first school in Kappa was held in his home in 1854. He operated the earliest El Paso Twp. post office, called ROXAN, turning it over to Thomas Campbell when he moved. It was at the windmill site in the field south of the old Grieser home owned now by Mr. and Mrs. John G. Parr. (See Chapter on "THE TRAILBLAZERS" about his post office.)

HORNER, George W. and Mary (Shaw) Horner—George was born in Perry County, Ohio, August 12, 1842, and came to live in White Oak Grove, McLean County with his parents in the fall of 1854. He enlisted in the army on August 9, 1862 and joined Company E., 108th Illinois Volunteers (Captain Wingfield M. Bullock's Company). He located near El Paso following the war and married on March 3, 1872. Children: Dr. Charles P., Dr. Clyde F., Clara Elberta Strickland and Chester William Horner. George is buried in the Evergreen Mausoleum.

HOTCHKISS, Eban and Celia Bayne—Lived in El Paso in 1857, when they married.

HOTCHKISS, G. U.—Came from Connecticut to Woodford County in 1839, and became early settler on East ½ of the NE¼, Section 10, Palestine Twp., just south of the east railroad bend. He owned an adjoining 80 to the east in Section 11.

HUGUET, Charles—Came to Illinois from France in 1850 and became a farmer in Section 13 at some later date. He was the father of Morris Huguet, a long time El Paso resident.

HUNZINGER, Jacob Sr. and Magdalena M. (1806-1883)—Jacob Sr. was born May 5, 1799 and died in Secor February 19, 1883, having been an early Palestine settler.

HUXTABLE, James—Came into the Greene Twp. area in 1857 from Devonshire, England and settled on 245 acres in Section 3, on the far north side of Greene Twp.

JACOBS, A. G. Jr.—Came from Hanover, Germany, in 1855 and settled on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, Greene Twp. His father, A. G. Jacobs, Sr., may have also migrated at this date with him.

JAYNES, James C. Jr. and Mary H. Powell—James was born in New York state, Otsego County, November 21, 1825, and settled in woods near Kappa in 1832, moving into the new ICRR village the next year, engaging in the grain business—probably Kappa's first grain man. He owned two farms and raised livestock extensively. He married in 1857. Mr. Jaynes died in Kappa August 3, 1883. He had been a trustee of the Kappa Methodist Church in the 1860's.

JAYNES, James C. Sr. and Elizabeth—James was born in New York on July 4, 1798, and followed his son into Kappa in the late 1850's, where he died May 21, 1870. Elizabeth was born April 3, 1796 and died in Kappa on June 8, 1879.

JENKINS, Isaac Merideth Sr. and Caroline Bicking (1832-1907)—Isaac, one of the three Jenkins brothers, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on January 20, 1803. He was the first of the brothers to move to Kickapoo in 1836 but Robert and William soon followed. Their sawmill was next to Bishop Chase's home in the Robin's Nest, close by the Jubilee College over which he presided. It was "built of mud and sticks and filled with young 'uns", hence the Robin's Nest. Isaac was fifty when he married, and sons David and Fred were born near Kickapoo, but George was born in El Paso, to which the family of both Isaac and William had moved in the spring of 1857, after erecting the first store building in 1856. All three of these boys died in the epidemic of 1860, all in one week, January 30 to February 5. Isaac and William bought the Lot 3, Block 44, from John S. Taylor on November 14, 1859. Mr. Gibson lived with this family while his own home was being constructed, as did Uncle Billy Jenkins, then a bachelor, whom Caroline Jenkins told to marry Mary Bainbridge so there would be a little more room in the Isaac Jenkins home, and he did.

For some years the Jenkins brothers were the only grain dealers. Isaac J. Jenkins, Jr. was born September 21, 1861, and following the death of May Gibson Fleming was the oldest person to reside all his life in El Paso. He died here on May 5, 1928. Youngest in the family was Katharine Jenkins, residing at 398 East First Street, and who has now lived in El Paso continuously for over eighty years. The family later famed where the cattle sales barn is now located east of El Paso on Route 24. The Jenkins families were all staunch Democrats. Isaac Sr. died in El Paso on December 15, 1879 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

JENKINS, Robert Smith and Malinda Kindred—Robert was born in Churchtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on June 23, 1812. He died June 6, 1883, in Wyand, Illinois and is buried there. He came from Kickapoo, where he operated a grist mill and sawmill. Robert served as the El Paso Cemetery Association's first Secretary at organization meeting August 11, 1859. He came to El Paso in late 1856 with his brothers, Isaac, Sr. and William, and opened our first store where the Rebbec Garage stands today. He followed building trades, and spent his winters in Natchez, Mississippi as a building superintendent for relatives. He had come west from Pennsylvania in 1840 to Illinois, and lived in Peoria County 16 years. He returned there from El Paso in 1864, and moved in turn to Wyand (1868); to Ladora, Iowa, (1869); to Viola, Illinois, (1870); to El Paso again in 1871, and to Wyand again in 1882, where he died the next year. Seven children were born to Robert and Malinda, of whom Jeff. D. Jenkins was the fourth. J. D. was an old time *El Paso Journal* employee, and in later life operated his own El Paso jewelry store.

JENKINS, William Merideth and Mary Bainbridge—William was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, March 23, 1814. He came to Illinois in 1837 and settled near Kickapoo. He came to El Paso in 1856 and built El Paso's first store building, the materials being the first bill-of-goods shipped by freight over the new Peoria & Oquawka Railroad into El Paso. William moved here in early 1857, and lived above the store. He was appointed postmaster on March 21, 1857, our first. He married in El Paso in 1862. There were two children, David H. and Frederick M. He served as a Notary in 1859, possibly earlier, and as Mayor in 1881. Except for Chlopicki's restaurant, all El Paso business in 1856 was at the Jenkins' Brothers Store. It stood at Cherry and Front Streets, where the Rebbec Garage is in 1953. The family moved to San Bernardino, California in 1884, where he died.

JETER, James M.—Came from Roanoke County, Virginia in 1853 and settled on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, living almost in the center of this section.

JOHNSON, Andrew and Mary Gibson—Andrew was born December 10, 1827 in Hanover, Germany. He came from Germany in 1852 to Woodford County, and thereafter settled as farmer and stock raiser on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 31 in southwestern Panola Twp. Nine children were born to Andrew and Mary, George Johnson being one of them. He is an ancestor of Cecil Johnson of Panola. Andrew was a Lutheran and a Democrat.

JOHNSON, Jabez—Came from Indiana in 1854 and settled on Section 3 on a small farm, north of the railroad in W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 3. He was born December 21, 1834 and died at Secor January 22, 1883.

JOHNSON, Reuben—Came from Ohio in 1859 and settled on a small bit of farmland at the edge of Secor village.

JOHNSTON, Smith and Mary Campbell (wife)—Smith Johnston was the brother-in-law of George H. Campbell, and for a time leased the Campbell House from him and operated it. He was host on January 12, 1869, when the young lecturer, Samuel L. Clemens, was a guest, and wrote one of his now published "Love Letters" to his beloved "Libby" from within its walls. Campbell and Johnston operated a tailor shop on the east side in the 1880's. Smith Johnston was born in 1825, died in 1906 and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery.

JONES, Charles Sr. and (1) Esther, (Died: 4-1-1812, Plymouth Mass.), (2) Elizabeth (Died: 5-22-62 at Kappa.), (3) Adaline (Died: 7-19-67 at Kappa.).—Charles Jones, Sr. was born in Massachusetts in 1785. He died in Kappa 7-27-74. Charles and Elizabeth (Nichols) came to Illinois by canal and Ohio and Illinois River in 1834 and in 1835 built the first house in Tremont, Illinois. They were the parents of Cushing and Charles Jr. and William, all in Kappa area as young men in 1853.

Charles moved to the Kappa area in 1853 when the ICRR came through, on land he had patented in June of 1850 on the supposition that the railroad would be built, making it valuable. This was in Section 32. He added the "Jones Addition" to Kappa on November 27, 1855 at a date great growth was expected of it.

JONES, Charles Jr. and Mary C.—Also lived in Kappa at an early date, buying land there in 1858.

JONES, Cushing and Charlotte Brooks (1830-1915)—Cushing was born December 5, 1824 in Plymouth County, Massachusetts; died in 1909 in El Paso. He is buried in Kappa Cemetery. He came with his father, Charles Jones, and Elizabeth to Tremont via canal and Ohio River in 1834, where Charles Jones built the first home in Tremont. Cushing (who married Miss Brooks of Pekin on April 6, 1848) and his parents came to the Kappa area when the ICRR

came through in 1853, having patented the entire Section 21 on August 25, 1852. They built a home in 1853, hauling the lumber from Pekin, the first house nearer the El Paso future site than the Hibbs brothers to the south of them. As a farmer, he engaged in breeding pure bred shorthorns; helped organize the old El Paso Fair; served for years on its Board and as President in 1892-3. Children born to Cushing and Charlotte were: Albert C., Frank (died in 1952), Clara (Wadsworth), and six others. William C. was killed in an elevator accident in El Paso.

JONES, William and Elizabeth H.—William was the son of Charles Jones, Sr., born in 1819 and died in Kappa on April 7, 1856, a prominent young 36 year old land-owner, farmer, and Kappa sub-divider. Appointed first postmaster, he named the new RR town "MONTROSE" but the Central rejected the name, and called it Kappa. He and Elizabeth patented land in Section 7 of Panola Twp. on September 23, 1852, and purchased school land from the State in El Paso Twp., Section 16 on April 21, 1853. They purchased more land in Section 29 on August 27, 1855 and added "Jones Addition" to Kappa on November 27, 1855, expecting great growth of the town. The next year El Paso got the rail crossing and their hopes were shattered. Mr. Jones took ill and died the week those rails reached El Paso. He is not to be confused with a nephew of the same name who was later killed in an El Paso elevator accident.

KAMP, George L. and Susanna—George migrated from Berks County, Pennsylvania, to Woodford County in 1847, and was located in Greene Twp. in 1857, where he owned land in Section 22.

KEARFOTT, Henry and Jane—Henry was born September 19, 1821 and died October 17, 1890 in the Mackinaw River area where he and his wife had settled in 1852 or earlier. They are buried in the Hinthorn Cemetery.

KELLY, Michael—Worked for the ICRR in Panola in 1854 as "woodman" for the wood burning engines.

KERR, Dr. Samuel L. and Caroline H. (1831-1896)—Dr. Kerr was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, December 6, 1823, and died in El Paso on January 4, 1897. He moved to Kappa from Indiana in June of 1856 and to El Paso in 1857. He served on the purchasing committee in the establishing of Evergreen Cemetery. He lived on the site of the Wilkey Nursing Home at Grant and First Streets, and later in the residence now Parkside Apartments at 180 E. First Street. He was a Charter Member of the Presbyterian Church which he helped organize May 11, 1857. He served as Mayor of El Paso in 1886, and briefly as postmaster in 1896.

KETCHAM, Rev. F. and E. P. B. (wife)—A preacher in the Gabetown area (Greene Twp.) in 1859; probably before.

KINDELSBRYER, Jacob—Settled in Greene Twp. woods in 1833. He was a German from Ohio.

KINDIG, Benjamin G. Jr. and Susan—Benjamin came to Woodford County from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1847. He later settled in the NE corner of Section 19, next to T. A. McCord, the 1831 pioneer.

KINDIG, David—Purchased the E $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, Panola Twp. on April 30, 1858 from Robert A. McClellan.

KING, E. Handley—Resident of El Paso in 1856, when his home was used for the first school. His mother and her sister, Mrs. Cooper, were teachers in this private school. It was located where the D. H. Roth residence now stands, corner of First and Pine Streets (NW corner).

KINGDON, Charles (1826-1863) and Elizabeth Wilkey (1830-1901)—Charles and Elizabeth farmed in Panola Twp. in 1859. In 1861 Charles left his wife with three little children to run the farm and joined Company E., 108th Illinois Infantry, to serve in the Civil War. He died of disease in the Milliken's Bend epidemic in 1863 during the early phases of the Vicksburg Campaign. He was a brother of Henry Kingdon of Panola Twp. and James Kingdon of Kickapoo.

KINGDON, Henry and Mary Hodge (1835-1902)—Henry was born June 7, 1830 in Devonshire, England, and died April 11, 1909 in El Paso. He came to the United States in 1852, and after living in Northern Illinois, Iowa, and Kickapoo, Illinois, he purchased the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35 in Panola Twp. and began farming it in the spring of 1859, building a two-room cabin there. His grandson, Alfred Kingdon, lived there in 1853. He is the ancestor of all today's male-line Kingdons in El Paso. Children born to Mary and Henry were: William, Lewis, Mary (Andrews), Percy, George, Sidney and Fannie (Bonar) and Miss Annie.

KINGSTON, George W. (Jr.)—George Kingston, Jr. was the son of the early pioneer, George Kingston, Sr. He patented the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9 in Panola Twp., May 18, 1854, and in order to live out the winter on the prairies, purchased the wood-lot in Section 33 in Greene Twp. on April 23, 1855, after apparently using it that winter. This was usual for prairie settlers: buying a strip of woods for fuel and building use.

George Kingston, Jr. eventually owned 320 acres of land in Panola Twp. On May 9, 1868 his neighbor, David J. Hedges, was building a fence across the public highway, where neighbors had repeatedly torn it down, and brought along a revolver to back up his apparently illegal fence job. George remonstrated with him, and took away his revolver and started back to his own home with it. Hedges came after him with a hatchet he had been using, and in the ensuing fight Kingston hit Hedges with a spade, from which blow he soon died. This occurred on the southeast 40 acres of Section 9, Panola Twp. Kingston was indicted for manslaughter, and after many delays, came to trial on August 13, 1869, and was acquitted on the grounds of self-defense. It is interesting to note that Kingston's lawyers were Robert G. Ingersoll, Joseph J. Cassell, John Burns and John T. Harper, the case being tried in the Metamora Courthouse, States' Attorney: S. M. Garrat and associate: W. G. Randall. The costs of the case and its resulting publicity seemed to have caused Kingston's removal from Panola Twp., and research has not yet disclosed where he went or what happened to him thereafter. Like his father, he had always had an excellent reputation.

KINGSTON, George (Sr.)—One of the earliest of all permanent residents in Woodford County, having settled in Spring Bay in 1823, only four years after Blaylock was found there. Kingston continued to reside in Woodford County many years, and his name is frequently in the early County histories. He was on the first petit jury panel at Versailles Court in 1841. He was an old man and ill at the time of his son's famous trial in 1869.

KINGSTON, Samuel B.—Believed living in Panola or Greene Twps. in 1853 when he bought a "lot" in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, Panola Twp. He was no doubt a relative of George Kingston, Sr. and George W. Kingston, Jr.

KIRKLIN, James—James was born in 1825. He was killed in a great windstorm of May 13, 1858 near El Paso. Another great windstorm with much hail occurred here on May 15, 1915, but with no fatalities.

KIRKPATRICK, A. D. and Ellen Jane—Probably living on Section 4 in Kansas Twp. in 1856 when they sold some of that land.

KIRKPATRICK, Samuel Sr.—Born in Virginia in 1806 and came to Woodford County in 1831, and to the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19 in Kansas Twp. in 1832, near which he eventually owned 600 acres. He served in the Black Hawk War in 1832 and was on a Bowling Green election board in 1841 when the County was formed. A son, Samuel Jr., was born in Kansas Twp. in 1850. The father died May 4, 1873.

KIRKPATRICK, Thomas and Mary C.—Believed living on Section 4 in Kansas Twp. in 1857 or before, when they sold some of the land.

KRING, Daniel and Lydia Frye (1837-1902)—Lived near Kappa at early unknown date.

KRUG, George Sr.—George was the son of Michael Krug who came with his father to Panola in January, 1857. He was born July 18, 1846 in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and died January 25, 1923.

KRUG, Henry and Lena Foslule. —Henry was born March 14, 1853 in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, son of Michael Krug. He lived in Panola with his father in January, 1857. He died April 18, 1921 in Panola Twp.

KRUG, John—Son of Michael who came to Panola as an infant with his parents in January, 1857. He was born April 13, 1855 and died July 25, 1925.

KRUG, Michael and Katharine Benson—Michael was born in Bavaria, May 15, 1820 and died in Panola Twp., November 5, 1899 and is buried in Harper Cemetery. He came to America in 1849 and lived in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, moving to Panola, Illinois in January, 1857, where he handled the first pumping station for the Illinois Central. He built a little cabin east of the tower on Panther Creek's north branch, where he and his family lived. Later they owned the land just west of the IC tracks in Section 8. Michael and Katharine were the parents of Kate (Saltsman), George, Henry, John and Rosa (Longman).

KUNKLER, Frederick—Came from Pennsylvania to Woodford County in 1844 and settled on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10 in Kansas Twp.

LAHR, Jacob and Wilhelmina—Jacob came from Germany, where he was born in 1822, and settled in Peoria at an unknown date. He moved to Gabetown in 1855 and ran a blacksmith shop there for a year or so, and moved into Secor when that town was established on the railroad in 1856. He became that town's first blacksmith, and built the second house in town. He died in Secor on February 27, 1880 and is buried in its cemetery.

LEARY, Martin O.—Received Illinois Central deed to Panola lots on April 1, 1858, and was an early resident there.

LEMON, John I. and Ann (wife)—Settled on the south edge of El Paso in 1865 as farmers. They were from Kentucky. Farmer City, Illinois GAR Post was named the "Lemon" Post because three of the four Lemon boys were lost in the Civil War.

LEWIS, Samuel G.—Lived in Panola in 1854 as a storekeeper, a partner for a brief time with William Crosley. He was an early police magistrate there.

LEYS, John—Born 3-21-37 and died in Eureka 12-1-05. He was a Belgian who came to Woodford County, believed Kansas Twp. in 1857. He served in the Civil War in Company C., 33rd Infantry Regiment. He married Ann Taylor. John was a county official from 1874 to 1905.

LIVINGSTON, Lewis and Amy Powell (1814-1895)—Lewis was born June 4, 1811 and died October 3, 1874. They were early settlers on Section 31, the corner section of Greene Twp. James Livingston had been the first settler in Clayton Twp. on April 14, 1854.

LOCKWOOD, Watson and Elizabeth L.—Watson was born April 30, 1827 and died August 10, 1897. He is buried in Baughman Cemetery. They lived in the North Panola Twp. area in August, 1856.

LOLLIS, E. James—Came to Woodford County in 1833 and then or later he settled on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8 in Kansas Twp. We believe his name was sometimes spelled "Lawless".

LONG, Mrs. (a widow)—Lived alone near Bowling Green in 1836.

LUCAS, William—Settled on Palestine prairie in 1840, the place unknown.

McCARTL, F. and D.—They lived in or near El Paso in 1858.

McCLELLAN, Robert A. and (1) Sarah J. Tompkins (Died May 29, 1861), (2) Emeline U. Tompkins (Died in 1915)—Robert came from Lake County, Illinois in 1855, after he had patented the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27 in Panola Twp. on August 20, 1853. He purchased other land in 1854 from the Joliet land dealer, George W. Cassaday, who entered much land near here. McClellan served as Panola Twp.'s first Supervisor after it split away from Minonk Twp. in 1855. William Tompkins, his wife's father, was another Panola pioneer, of that year. Robert helped organize the Evergreen Cemetery on August 11, 1859, and moved a daughter's body to it, who had died August 12, 1858. He owned the land southwest of El Paso which became McClellan's Addition. His original home, built there in 1857, is today's remodeled Zelda Risser home, the oldest now standing in El Paso. Robert was born in 1823 and died November 12, 1890 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

McCLELLAN, Charles O. and Eunice Avery (1827-1903)—Charles was born January 12, 1819 and died in El Paso on December 22, 1907. He purchased Lots 9-10 in Block 46 from Gibson on September 3, 1858.

McCLELLAN, Thomas D. and Elizabeth (1810-1870)—Related to Robert and Charles, Thomas D. McClellan was born January 9, 1822 and died January 19, 1910. In El Paso at an early date, he began the construction of the first house, but did not complete it, the Baynes doing so, finishing second to David Hibbs. His home was the remodeled home now occupied by Walter M. Claggett at First and Pine Streets.

McCLELLAN, William H.—One of the area's early prairie farmers. He was operating his land in the year of 1854 as was James Trotter of Kappa, and John Bodger. He became one of the town's early grain merchants. William purchased the James Seery home in Robert McClellan's Addition, and lived in it on W. Jefferson St. for some years. It is now the second oldest house in El Paso.

McCORD, Allen A. and Evaline—Allen was a son of William McCord, Sr., who came with his parents to Twin Grove, McLean County, in 1827 and on into Greene Twp. in 1831. (Radford says 1830.)

McCORD, James S. and Zurrilda (Overton County Tennessee)—James came with his father's family to Twin Grove in 1827 and on into Greene Twp. in 1831, and he became the first Treasurer of Woodford County when it was formed in 1841. He served as a Justice of the Peace from 1849 through 1853 and possibly longer.

McCORD, John O. and Rebecca J.—John was a son of William McCord, Sr., who came with his parents from Overton County, Tennessee in 1827 to Twin Grove, and to Greene Twp. in 1831 or shortly thereafter. He patented the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21 in Greene Twp. on May 10, 1851. He was born March 7, 1818, and died on his 48th birthday in 1864.

McCORD, Melmon W. and Mary A.—Melmon was a son of William McCord Sr., who migrated from Overton County, Tennessee to Twin Grove in 1827 and on into Greene Twp. in 1831. He sold a part of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22 in Greene Twp. on January 20, 1851 and bought a "metes and bounds" description in Section 29 on April 4, 1851.

McCORD, Thomas Alfred and Sarah Ann Arnold (Overton County, Tennessee)—Thomas was the son of William McCord, Sr. who came with his father's family to Twin Grove in 1827 and to Greene Twp. in 1831 where he outlived most of his father's family. His old home was on the north center line of Section 19 where the Metamora Road turns west at the sharp curve. He served with Allen Patrick in Captain Robert McClure's Company of Bloomington men in the Black Hawk War, and told of burying the sixteen victims of the Hall Massacre at Ottawa. He was an active Democratic politician aiding Thomas Bullock to organize the County so it would vote that way. He served on the first Woodford County panel of Grand Jurors at Versailles in 1841. He was alive in 1873. His first land patent was dated September 3, 1836 and was for the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 7 down in Kansas Twp. On September 4, 1838 he patented the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 20 in Greene Twp. Thomas retired in 1877 and moved to Roanoke, Illinois where he died.

McCORD, William M. Jr. and Elizabeth (1816-1879)—William was born in Overton County, Tennessee on July 3, 1815 and died August 26, 1887. He settled in Greene Twp. with his father and mother in 1831 (Radford says 1830) but he moved back to Money Creek Twp. with Young Bilbrey about 1850. He is buried in Hinthorn Cemetery there.

McCORD, William Sr. and Jane McMurtrey (7-6-1789 to 8-6-1870)—William was originally from North Carolina, born March 27, 1788. He and his wife brought their six sons and three daughters on the trip from Overton County, Tennessee into the Twin Groves of McLean County in 1827, where they apparently remained until moving into Greene Twp. in 1831 (Radford says 1830, but T. A. McCord said he came in 1831). They settled what was surveyed as Sections 18 and 19 of Greene, or parts of them. William's first patent was for the NE quarter of Section 19 in Greene Twp. jointly with a "Thomas McCord" which must have been his son. Eleven of twelve children survived the rigor of pioneer life: James S., Thomas A., Nancy E., Malinda, William M. Jr., Cyrus, Elizabeth, John O., Melmon W., Allen A. and Francis. William McCord, Sr. died June 13, 1852; he is buried in Gabetown Cemetery. (See story of their wagon trip to Illinois in Chapter 2, "Pioneers and Pioneer Living.")

McFADDEN, William and Rebecca (wife)—Lived in the Gabetown area of Greene Twp. in 1855 where Rebecca died, June 29 of that year.

McKEE, Richard—The McKee family settled in Palestine Twp. prior to 1840.

McKEE, William—William McKee came from Kentucky in 1830, and settled then or sometime later on the NW¼ of Section 24 in Palestine Twp.

McNeil, W. K. and S. (wife)—Lived in the Kansas Twp. area in 1859.

McOMBER, Horace L. and Margaret J. Brown—Horace was born in Galway, New York, September 17, 1827, and came to Illinois in 1856, purchased land by contract from the Illinois Central Railroad in Section 34 of Panola Twp.

Horace and Margaret were the parents of Lewis (named for an Uncle) and the Rev. Eddy McOmber. Horace was a member of the early Panola-El Paso Methodist Church, although Mrs. McOmber and all the other McOmbers were Baptists. Two daughters were born to Horace and Margaret: Laura J. (Swartz) and Hattie (Peard).

McOMBER, Israel D. and Laura Hayes (1802-1848)—They lived in Panola Twp. in the 1850's as did Horace and Lewis B. McOmber. Israel died January 31, 1858 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery; possibly moved from another grave in the country as Evergreen wasn't purchased (L. B. McOmber was on the committee) until August the next year. Israel McOmber was a Charter Member of the first Baptist Church, organized January 21, 1858, but he died within ten days.

McOMBER, Lewis B. and Elizabeth (wife)—Came from New York into Panola Twp. Lewis served on the purchasing committee which bought the Evergreen Cemetery site. L. B. was born May 6, 1825 and died April 14, 1888. They were Charter Members of the El Paso Baptist Church at the organization meeting on January 21, 1858. Lewis was later an El Paso sewing machine dealer. He is not to be confused with a nephew of the same name.

McVAY, James—Came from Kentucky into Woodford County in 1849 and finally settled on a small farm on the south side of Section 31, Palestine Twp., about one and one-fourth miles east of Bowling Green.

MAGARITY, J. W.—Lived in the Gabetown area of Greene Twp. in 1852 and probably earlier. He died 12-13-52.

MAHLSTEHL, Christian—Early Secor blacksmith, about 1857-8.

MAIER, John—Came to Woodford County from Germany in 1852 and a few years later settled on the NE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 35 in Panola Twp.

MARSHALL, I. W.—On Methodist Church records of December 10, 1859.

MASON, G. and E. (wife)—Lived along the Mackinaw area in the early forties. They buried a son on November 21, 1846 in the Messer Cemetery.

MAYNE, Richard Sr. and Charlotte Scott (1842-1916)—Richard was born September 29, 1838 and died August 13, 1897. He came from Devonshire, England in 1852 with his brother, Robert M. Mayne. Richard worked for a time near Niagara Falls, and came by boat to Peoria in 1854, settling on the old Mayne homestead on Section 20 in El Paso Twp. in 1857.

MAYNE, Robert Mark and Elizabeth Alice Campbell (1841-1930)—Robert was born July 27, 1834 and died May 17, 1912. He came from Devonshire, England in 1852 with his brother Richard. He worked for a time near Niagara Falls and came by boat to Peoria in 1854, settling in El Paso Twp. on Section 18 in 1857. Nine children were born to Robert and Elizabeth: Nell (Muller), Thomas, Betty (Burroughs-Steele), Richard, Minnie (Herr), Robert and Georgette (Pfleegeger). Elizabeth Alice Campbell was the daughter of the Campbells who succeeded Caleb Horn in El Paso Twp.'s earliest post office, ROXAN. Her great grandfather was a General in the Revolution, and her mother's ancestry dates back to the Duke of Argyle.

MEECH, Horace—Resident of Kappa in 1855-6 when he ran a restaurant at the depot for the benefit of train passengers.

MEGINNES, William Sr. and Catherine Harmon—William was born near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in 1786, and came to the Roanoke, Illinois neighborhood in 1853. He and Catherine then moved into Greene Twp. in 1855. There were nine children born to them; William Jr., being the father of Charles, who in turn was the father of the William Meginnes who lives on the home farm in 1953. The pioneer, and elder William Meginnes died October 18, 1858, aged 72.

MERCHANT, A. M. and M. A.—Parents of John Merchant who died in service in the Civil War, September 9, 1864, aged 23.

MESSER, Rev. Isaac and Sidnay Ann Forbes (1787-1843)—Rev. Messer was the oldest member of the Messer family which came into Illinois. He was born May 2, 1781 in Pennsylvania, and died on the Mackinaw River January 21, 1861. He was a veteran of the War of 1812. His pioneer wife died May 9, 1843. Both are buried in the Messer Cemetery south of the Mackinaw.

While not of El Paso Twp., the Messer family have been prominent in the near by area ever since, and this pioneer preacher, who was pastor of the earliest United Brethern Church near Fifer, was the great grandfather of Wayne Messer. Rev. Isaac's son, John B. Messer, settled the Thomas Enright farm in 1836. Rev. Isaac buried a son in the Messer Cemetery who died February 26, 1835, one of that area's earliest burials, only one year after Rev. Isaac arrived to build a cabin near there in 1834.

MESSER, Isaac Jr. and Nancy E. Locke (1836-1906)—As a three year old boy, Isaac accompanied his parents to the Mackinaw River area in 1834. He was born December 28, 1831 and died April 30, 1900, and is buried in the Messer Cemetery.

MESSER, John B. and Susan E. Patton—John was born in Pennsylvania on August 4, 1807, and died on the Mackinaw River on November 10, 1879. It is believed he moved into Illinois before his father Rev. Isaac did, as he settled in Sugar Grove in the fall of 1828. He moved to a site near where Lexington now stands in 1829, coming to the Thomas Enright farm north of the Mackinaw in 1836. John and Susan were the parents of John Patton Messer, who in turn was father of John, Frank and Irvin I. Messer.

MESSER, John Patton and (1) Mary S. (1842-1867), (2) Elizabeth J. (1838-1928)—John was the son of John B. Messer and Susan E. Patton, and the father of John, Frank and Irvin Messer.

MESSER, Joseph and Martha Lock (1832-1875)—Joseph was born in Pennsylvania on September 5, 1825 and died April 8, 1898 near the Mackinaw. A pioneer settler in the area with his father, Isaac, and his brother, John B. Messer. Both are buried in the Messer Cemetery.

METZGER, Chris—Born in Philadelphia, September 15, 1834. He settled in Panola Twp. in 1856 as a farmer. He moved into El Paso in 1873 and engaged in the grain business, with the firm of McClellan & Co.

MEYERS, Jacob C. and Jane—Jacob came to Panola about 1855 with his family. He was from Pennsylvania. Both he and his brother O. P. A. Meyers, had first settled in Greene Twp. where Jacob had purchased "metes and bounds" survey in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 20 on December 10, 1852.

MEYERS, Oliver P. A. and Nancy J.—Oliver was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1828. He patented the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22, and the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23 in Greene Twp. on July 13, 1850, and other lands in Sections 1, 15 and 21 in 1854. He is credited with naming

Greene Twp. after his native Greene County in Pennsylvania, where so many of his neighbors also came from. He moved into Panola Twp. about 1855, and served as a Supervisor, and in 1861 as County Treasurer.

MAYER, Xavier—Born in Germany on March 6, 1807 and settled in Greene Twp. in 1856 on Sections 11-12. He was a prairie land pioneer. He died January 29, 1880, and is buried in Harper Cemetery.

MICHAEL, Phillip and Ann—Came to Woodford County from Germany in 1849, settling on a farm south of the Olive Branch School site on the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, Palestine Twp. Their son, Jacob Michael, was born on this farm.

MILLER, Christian and (1) Mrs. Mary P. Phaster, (2) Elizabeth Stack—Christian was born February 1, 1832 in Germany. He came to America and was living in Palestine Twp. in 1855, having migrated from Germany in 1853. His farm was in the interior of the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NE\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 31, in which he eventually owned 200 acres.

MILLER, J. B.—Came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1856 and settled in the $N\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Greene Twp., his home being in the center of that section on the extreme north line.

MILLER, John Trout and Mary Malinda Foutz (1828-1904)—John was born August 3, 1829 and died July 14, 1897. He and Mary married in Botetout County, Virginia, September 5, 1854, and at once set out for Illinois on a honeymoon trip, arriving in Kappa on the new ICRR. They settled in Greene Twp., buying the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22 on the Metamora Road. Calvin Miller, born on the Greene Twp. farm in 1857, was oldest of seven children. The farm remained in Miller hands for almost 70 years.

MITCHELL, S. H. and Cynthia—The two Mitchells were active in the early Methodist Church as early as 1858, possibly before. Mr. Mitchell's name appears in the Church records over a period of years. They probably lived near Panola where the church first organized.

MOHR, George Conrad—George was born in October of 1811. He died August 26, 1851 and is buried in Harper Cemetery. He patented the $E\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 35 of Greene Twp. on September 1, 1837, showing early residence in the area. He later patented the $NE\frac{1}{4}$ of the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 35, Greene Twp., July 2, 1850, only a year before he died.

MOHR, J. F.—First Constable in Greene Twp. in 1855 along with J. F. Stephenson. Early German Evangelical Church services were held in the Mohr settlement homes. These were possibly north Palestine's first regular church services.

MOHR, John G. and Katharine—John was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, November 12, 1802. He came to America in 1818 and settled in Pennsylvania. He moved to Palestine Twp. and settled on the $N\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 3 on November 6, 1836, the first settler on the north side of that township. There were ten children born to John and Katharine. John served as grand juror on County's first panel at the Versailles Court, 1841. He was the grandfather of Melvin Mohr.

MOHR, S. W.—A son of John G. Mohr; born on Section 3, Palestine Twp. about 1838 and later farmed on the northeast corner of that section. His birth was probably the first in that immediate area.

MOHR, William F.—Son of John G. Mohr. He was born on the farm on Section 3 in Palestine Twp., January 31, 1842.

MONTGOMERY, George—Born in Pennsylvania, date unknown. He died in El Paso Twp. in 1863. He was one of the pioneer settlers of El Paso Twp.,

having moved from Kentucky and Indiana in 1849, to Section 19 of El Paso Twp. George was about the first to follow the Hibbs, Dixons, Messers and Horns.

MONTGOMERY, Marshall—Son of George Montgomery; born near Terre Haute on February 14, 1838. He enlisted from El Paso Twp. on April 26, 1861 in Company G., 4th Illinois Cavalry, whose commander was Captain (Colonel) H. D. Cook of Kappa.

This family came from a long line of Indian campaigners, whose ancestors were in the Revolution and many Indian affrays.

MOOL, James—Came from England in 1852, and a few years later settled on the farm in the northeast corner of Section 26 now owned by Lucille Holt. He is an ancestor of today's Mool family in El Paso, Gridley, and Lexington area.

MOORE, Adam—Son of William Campbell Moore, who came from Ohio to Kansas Twp. around 1833 or possibly earlier.

MOORE, Alfred and Mary Ann—Alfred was the son of Charles Moore, the Revolutionary War veteran who built Moore's Mill. This son was probably associated with his father and uncles in the Panther Creek settlement. He patented part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6 in Kansas Twp. on February 1, 1837.

MOORE, Charles and Martha—It was Charles and his sons and brothers who formed the "Panther Creek" settlement and built the first water powered grist mill in the entire area in 1830, near the Ancil Shoup home in south Palestine Twp. He had previously settled in the Walnut Grove (Eureka area) in 1826. Charles Moore was a Revolutionary War veteran and was killed in a run-away accident, September 18, 1839, showing that buggies were also dangerous. He was shipped to a former home and buried at Ewington, Summitt Twp., Effingham County, Illinois. Some historians have said his mill one mile northwest of Bowling Green was the first water-powered mill in Woodford County. He is believed the father of Alfred and Josiah Moore.

MOORE, Joseph and Mrs. Almira Patrick—Joseph lived in Greene Twp. in the 1830's and married Almira, the widow of Winslow Patrick. He is not the Joseph Moore who was El Paso's first Mayor.

MOORE, Joseph H. and (1) Juliet Helm (1816-1868), (2) Nancy—Joseph was El Paso's first Mayor after the City was incorporated under special charter in 1867. Also served as City's seventh postmaster, March 3, 1868 to January 22, 1880, and for many years thereafter as Justice of the Peace. He had been sheriff of McLean County before moving here about 1858. He purchased the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20, El Paso Twp. on May 13, 1858. A daughter, Elizabeth, married a Willis. He was born in 1814 and died at El Paso in 1904.

MOORE, Josiah and Jane A. Patrick (Radford)—They lived in Palestine around 1830. Josiah was one of the first three County Commissioners named to govern the new Woodford County in 1841, drawing the three year term. Joseph Meek and James Boys (first Woodford County postmaster in 1836—three miles north of Metamora) were the other two Commissioners. Meek had also been in the county since around 1836. Josiah Moore purchased W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28 in Greene Twp. on January 10, 1838.

MOORE, William Campbell and Sarah—William was an Ohioan by birth, who came to Sangamon County, Illinois in 1812, and to Walnut Grove (Eureka area) in 1826. He is believed to be a brother of Charles Moore, as he moved to the Panther Creek settlement and was associated with him and the first water-powered mill there. He moved into El Paso Twp. after a few years, and finally to Montgomery Twp. where he died. He patented the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25 in Greene Twp. on May 23, 1836, and may have also lived there for a time. He was the father of Adam Moore.

MORRIS, James T.—Came to Woodford County in 1842, and later settled on the farm still in Morris possession in the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, Panola Twp. He was a farmer and stockman.

MOSHER, E.—Methodist preacher in El Paso-Panola Circuit in 1858. May not have actually resided in our area as the Circuit included Chenoa to Secor.

MURRAY, John—Attended First Methodist Conference in Panola on November 7-8, 1857. His name is mentioned in that Church's books again in 1858.

NAFFZIGER, Jacob (1798-1888) and Barbara Graebiel (1795-1876)—Early residents in northern Panola Twp. Date of settlement unknown.

NAFFZIGER, P. J. and M.—Lived in the north Panola Twp. area in 1859.

NEIFING, William—Came to Illinois from Germany in 1847 and to El Paso around 1858. He was a harness dealer and an undertaker. He was the election judge who decided to allow David A. Strother to vote after some debate, the first legal Negro vote in the U. S. as a result of the 15th Amendment. He buried Ludwig Chlopicki, El Paso's famous "Count." He made an addition on the west side of town called Neifing's Addition, January 30, 1867.

NEIGHBARGER, B. and M. (wife)—They lived along the Mackinaw in August, 1852 and possibly earlier.

NEIGHBARGER, G. W. and S. A.—Known to be in the Mackinaw area in the late 1850's.

NEIGHBARGER, Jacob and Phoebe—They lived in the Mackinaw area in the early 1850's. Phoebe died 2-19-55.

NESMITH, Jane—First public school teacher in Panola village in 1857. The building had cost \$600.00.

NETHERCOTT, Robert and (1) Mary (Died 6-16-60, age 31), (2) Jane (Died in 1889, age 57)—Robert was born in September, 1833 and died in February, 1911. He settled his homestead in Panola Twp. about 1859 or possibly before. He owned one of El Paso's early automobiles, a real horseless carriage with regular buggy wheels and a rod for steering. His car may have been the fifth in town—the first was Dr. C. O. Patton's and the next were ordered by Dr. Gordon, Elmer Gray, Steve deVries, and then perhaps Nethercott and Fred Blumenshine. Charles Bailey in Panola Twp. also had an early auto. Too old to learn to drive, Nethercott gave up and stored his old car in a barn.

NETHERS, G. W.—Born September 20, 1810, died March 12, 1857. He lived near Kappa, and is buried in the Kappa Cemetery.

NEWELL, Rev. Isaac D.—The first Baptist Church in Kansas-Montgomery Twp. area was organized at the home of James Vance under Rev. Newell's direction in 1837.

NITWINE, John—A Bowling Green resident around 1840.

NORTH, Henry and Mary Hitch—Henry was an Englishman, who came from Tazewell County and purchased land in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, El Paso Twp. in 1855, where he and Mary lived. A brother of the John North, born November

4, 1812, we do not have birth and death record of Henry or his wife. They had one daughter named Alica. Of the several "English Lane" settlers, they helped organize a Kappa Baptist Church in the early 1850's but that church failed and they transferred to the El Paso Baptist Church in December, 1858.

NORTH, James—There were two James North's; we know this one was in El Paso Twp. in 1857 and no doubt earlier. He was Supt. of El Paso's first Sunday School that year, and it was held in the first freight house just built by the Illinois Central. He was born in England in 1788 and died northeast of Kappa on December 17, 1868. Children were Albert, Clara, Emma (Sage) and George. His wife's name is unknown.

NORTH, James H. and Sarah Bloodworth (1832-1921)—There were two James North's; this one said to be a Mexican War veteran, but we cannot verify. He was born in 1821 and died July 1, 1887. Children of James and Sarah were: William, Omer, Lewis, Charles, and Carrie (Schultz). He was a cousin of the John North who married Rebecca Radcliff.

NORTH, John and Rebecca Ratcliff (1818-1902)—John was born November 4, 1812 and died January 4, 1864. He settled just inside the El Paso Twp. line in 1854, purchasing the farm from Caleb Horn April 2, 1855. He married on July 11, 1837, and he and Rebecca landed in America (from England) October 28, 1849, staying at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and moving to Washington, Illinois in the spring of 1850, living there until moving to the El Paso Twp. farm in 1854. Children of John and Rebecca were: Sarah (Tipler), James R., Henry, Elizabeth (Bailey), Joseph, Spencer H., and Nellie (Leonard). They were among the "English Lane" settlers. They helped organize a Baptist Church in Kappa in the 1850's but transferred to the El Paso Church in December, 1858, the Kappa church closing.

NORTH, Rev. William and Sarah A. Greene (1823-1908)—"Uncle Billy" North was a veteran El Paso area preacher, who was a member of the first Sunday School in the Kappa vicinity in 1855, it being organized by Rev. Gregg. A Mexican War veteran, according to his daughter, Mrs. Mary Gull, he preached in El Paso Twp. churches for many years. His first land purchase was for the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 28, El Paso Twp., which he bought from William Patton on August 13, 1854. He was a brother of John North, James and Henry North. A sister, Sarah North, married another early "English Lane" settler, the elder William Ostler, who also started farming here in 1855. Besides daughter Mary (Gull), there were Sally (Dixon), Hannah (Champion), Laura (Thorpe) and Josie (Culbertson). "Uncle Billy" North was born in England, March 30, 1824, and died northeast of Kappa on November 23, 1903, and is buried in the Kappa Cemetery.

OATMAN, Clement and wife—Mrs. Oatman taught the first school held in Palestine Twp. in her own home, prior to erection of the first schoolhouse in 1844. Clement is believed to have been a brother of Rev. John Oatman.

OATMAN, Rev. John—Rev. Oatman lived in Palestine Twp. as an early Christian preacher, possibly related to Clement Oatman.

O'BRIEN, Delos P. and Emily Goodrich—Came to Illinois from New York state in 1854, and was living near El Paso in 1857. Delos was active in the Methodist Church organization, and his name appears on that church records for 1859. He ran one of El Paso's first hardware stores.

O'CONNELL, John—Contracted to buy Lot 13, Block 28 from Wathen on August 8, 1858, but failed to complete contract.

O'CONNELL, Timothy—Helped build the railroad thru Panola in 1853. He settled and lived there the rest of his life.

OGDEN, Silas W. and Margaret—Silas was the organizer and a Charter Member of the Presbyterian Church of El Paso, May 11, 1857, El Paso's first church. Mr. Ogden was this church's first "ruling elder", Dr. S. L. Kerr succeeding him in 1858.

OHMET, J.—A member of the First Methodist Conference in Panola, November 7-8, 1857.

ORE, Benjamin K. and Esther Cline—Benjamin was a Palestine farmer in 1858, who entered Civil War service in Company A., 86th Voluntary Infantry, (See "El Paso's part in the Wars.") but was injured before that company's fight in the Kenesaw Mountain battle. He was a Methodist and a Republican, a Charter Member of El Paso's GAR Post, and farmed after the war from 1865 to 1889. He was born in Swedesboro, New Jersey, December 29, 1826 and died in El Paso on February 15, 1908 and is buried in the Kappa Cemetery. Benjamin and Esther were the parents of Henry P. Ore, killed in action with Indians at Ft. Robinson, Nebraska on January 12, 1879.

OSTLER, William Sr. and (1) Sarah North, (2) Mary Morris, (3) Ann Ball—William migrated from England in 1851, and purchased the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16 from James Trotter on September 14, 1854. Trotter had purchased this school land from the State on September 28, 1853. Ostler began farming it "on English Lane" in 1855, and continued there for many years. He wrote a diary, short extracts being printed in the Curtiss & Evans booklet on El Paso in 1895, but he is slightly in error. He and his second wife were the parents of John William Ostler, Annie O. (Schofield) and Ella O. Stevens.

OTTO, G. H. and Antonette—Mr. Otto was born in 1800 and died in 1878. His wife, Antonette, was killed in a tomado or cyclone on May 29, 1859 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

PAINTER, William—An 1855 Notary in Kappa, and also serving as Justice of the Peace.

PARKS, Jonathan D.—Jonathan was in Panola in 1857 where he served as the first Master of the new Panola Lodge, AF&AM. He was Panola's third railroad agent. He moved to El Paso and was an insurance agent and Justice of the Peace in 1864 when he permitted a new arrival, David A. Strother, a colored boy who had served as a cook in an army company, to set up a barber chair in a corner of his office. (See article on him elsewhere in this book.) In 1865 Parks served as President of the Board of Trustees which governed the Original Town of El Paso.

PARSONS, Shedrick—Came from England in 1853 and shortly thereafter settled on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16 which became later known as the John Roth farm.

PARSONS, William E.—Came from England (probably with Shedrick) in 1853 and a few years later farmed in the Panola area.

PATRICK, Allen and Eliza J.—With Eli Patrick, Allen patented the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29 in Greene Twp. and other lands in the same section on September 4, 1838. It is believed he arrived in Greene Twp. with the other Patricks in 1829. He served in Captain McClure's Bloomington Company in the Black Hawk War, enlisting May 5, 1832. Allen and his wife moved to Tazewell County in 1842.

PATRICK, Edward Fitz and Mary Jane McCord—Edward was a Revolutionary War veteran who was born in Ireland in 1760, and kidnapped for sea duty when a small youth. He finally jumped ship and settled in North Carolina. His pension claim was No. W-1988. When he moved to Overton County, Tennessee is not known, but he married Mary Jane McCord, whose mother was the Mrs. Jane McCord who became something of a hero because she milked her cow as commanded by the British soldiers, and then defiantly poured the milk on the ground instead of giving it to them. Edward had a brother who had been kidnapped with him, and from whom he became permanently separated. Apparently Mary Jane died before the Patricks and the McCords migrated to Greene Twp., as Edward is believed to have come with his daughter, Amanda Bilbrey, arriving in 1830. Edward died near Gabetown in 1834, and is buried in the old cemetery there—the area's only grave of a veteran of the Revolution. He was the father of the four or more Patrick boys, and at least three girls, Amanda and Jane (Moore) and Cerena (Hinthorn).

PATRICK, Eli and Mary Amanda McCorkle—Settled in Greene Twp. in 1829 with the other Patrick's and patented his first land on November 17, 1835 with Allen Patrick in Section 29, and the same day the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28 in his own name. He was an election judge in the 1841 County organization. PATRICK, William—A member of the Patrick family who settled in Greene Twp. from Overton County, Tennessee, in 1829. Cousins of the McCords.

PATRICK, Winslow and Almira—Originally from North Carolina, the large Patrick family came to Greene Twp. in 1829 from Overton County, Tennessee. Winslow was killed in a logging accident in the spring of 1830, before the "winter of the deep snows." It was the first Greene Twp. death of record. His widow, Almira, later married a Joseph Moore, not the same Joseph Moore who was El Paso's first Mayor, this being perhaps the Twp.'s first wedding.

PATTERSON, Daniel C. and Elizabeth—Daniel was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, December 3, 1821, and one of the several persons who migrated from there into Greene Twp., naming it for their old county in Pennsylvania. Patterson arrived on the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27 in December of 1851, and purchased the farm on December 10, 1852. Daniel was the father of Thomas Patterson, said to be Panola's first merchant.

PATTERSON, Green Lee and Mary J. Brashears—Green Lee was born in Indiana, 9-26-27. He was the son of Joshua and Mary E. (Bell) Patterson. He made the gold rush trip to California in '50 and lived there three years. Green Lee returned via the Isthmus of Panama and settled in Palestine Twp. in 1856 with his bride. He was a member of the Christian Church and the Republican Party.

PATTERSON, Thomas—Panola's first storekeeper in 1854, and served on that Twp.'s first board of highway commissioners in 1855.

PATTON, Caleb L. and Orpha—Sold the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NE\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 21, Greene Twp. to James Hammers on January 4, 1854.

PATTON, John L. and Louisa Livingston—John was the son of Samuel R. and Jane Hayes Patton, born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, February 29, 1836 thus he had an actual birthday only once each four years. He came by boat to Lacon, Illinois in 1851, and by team into Greene Twp., residing on Section 24. They lived for four years in Panola Twp., and had two children, Frank and Arthur. John was a Democrat and a Baptist.

PATTON, John M.—Relationship to other Pattons not known. He was living in the Gabetown area in 1852 when he died, and was buried in that cemetery.

PATTON, Samuel R. and Jane Haynes—Samuel was born in Pennsylvania in 1805; and came from Greene County, Pennsylvania to Illinois in 1851 to settle in Woodford County. He did not move onto the Greene Twp. home farm until 1853. He was the father of John L. Patton, who settled in Greene with his father, and of Judge George W. Patton, an infant in 1851, who served on the Circuit Court bench 1897 to about 1913.

PATTON, William and Cassy Ann—On August 13, 1854 purchased the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $SW\frac{1}{4}$, Section 28, El Paso Twp. from William North.

PAULEY, Edward—Came to Woodford County from England in 1849. When the prairie land opened up for settlement, he bought the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26 where he settled around 1857. The Pauley School to the north, old No. 5, was named for him. Lawrence Guard lives on the farm today.

PEARCE, W. and A. (wife)—Lived near Kappa in the '50's. They have a daughter buried in Kappa Cemetery who died March 1, 1857.

PEARL, Sylvester—Listed as being from "Woodford County, Illinois." He may lived in El Paso Twp. as early as December 26, 1851 when he purchased $NE\frac{1}{4}$ of the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19, El Paso Twp. His name appears often in early land transfers, and he possibly was a land promoter and dealer.

PEELER, Rev. Abner—A Christian preacher, and the teacher of Kansas Twp.'s first school in 1850, which was located near Zachary Brown's cabin. Two other schools were also built that year.

PEELER, John W.—John was born 12-6-41 and died 9-12-08. He is buried in the East White Oak Cemetery. He was probably the son of Rev. Abner Peeler, earliest teacher in Kansas Twp. (1850).

PFEISTER, Sebastian and Mary (April 27, 1829-October 9, 1890)—Sebastian was born February 10, 1822 and died on March 24, 1875. He came from Germany, and settled here at an early unknown date. Brother of Thomas, who dropped the letter "e".

PFISTER, Thomas and Mary Rall—Thomas was born in Hohenzollern, Germany, February 14, 1834 and came to America in 1851, taking out naturalization papers and voting for Buchanan in 1856. He worked as farm hand for the Ray family, then contracted to buy land on Section 24, El Paso Twp., and moved there from Greene. He sent to Germany for Miss Rall and they were married July 1, 1867 in the Catholic Church, El Paso. Children: John, Dorothy, Sebastian and Francis. They were grandparents of Lloyd, Mabel (Smith) Lester, Clarene and Florence. Thomas died October 23, 1916.

PFLEEGER, A., Phillip, Sr., Phillip, Jr.—This family came from Germany to Illinois in 1851 and farmed at an early date Section 25, El Paso Twp. Phillip, Sr. was a leader in our earliest German Evangelical Lutheran Church. They were instrumental in building the church at Central and Third Streets in 1864.

PHILLIPS, Alfred and Susan—Parents of M. Stamper Phillips and five other children. They made the trip to Illinois from Wayne County, Kentucky in October, 1830, and completed their cabin three and one-half miles south of Washington, Illinois just before the deep snows of the 1830-31 winter set in. In late life, Alfred Phillips, and possibly his wife, lived with his son Stamper in Panola Twp. They are not related to the Phillips settlers in Kansas Twp.

PHILLIPS, Eli—Probably born in the Kansas Twp. neighborhood in 1843; he lived on the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 19 there as late as 1873.

PHILLIPS, James V. and Jane—Probably came after Robert and Samuel Phillips into Kansas Twp. They lived there in 1831 and he served in the Black Hawk War the next year. They bought land in Sections 7 and 18 on December 26, 1837 from Thomas A. and Sarah Ann McCord.

PHILLIPS, Micajah Stamper and Elmira (Frederick) Corder—Micajah was born in Wayne County, Kentucky, December 19, 1829, and died in Panola Twp. on August 20, 1887. He was unrelated to the Kansas Twp. Phillips family, although Stamper Phillips came to Illinois as a babe in 1830, just in time for his father to get a cabin built before the winter of the deep snows. In the same party was another babe, Shelby M. Cullom, who became United States Senator from Illinois. The family first settled south of Washington, Illinois, but M. Stamper purchased the $E\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NE\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3 in northern Panola Twp. and moved there about 1861. He was buried in the Baughman Cemetery.

PHILLIPS, Robert—Came from Indiana and settled about on the McLean County line in Kansas Twp. in 1828; with the Amasa Stouts in Greene Twp. this was the earliest settlement in our five-township area. He was the brother of Samuel Phillips, who also settled that year. Robert died in 1835, probably the earliest adult death in Kansas Twp.

PHILLIPS, Samuel—Came from Indiana and settled on the McLean County line in Kansas Twp. in 1828, with brother Robert, the earliest in the area, except for the Stouts in Greene Twp. who came that year. (See Gershom Harvey.)

PIERCE, John B.—Came from New York and moved to Palestine Twp. from Gridley Twp. after his marriage to Margaret J. Shepherd in the 1850's. Two children: Henry W. and Caleb B. Pierce. John B. enlisted in Company B., 88th Illinois Voluntary Infantry in the Civil War, and died of disease in September, 1864. His wife subsequently married Anderson Van Scyoc.

PIERCE, Mr. and Mrs. M. J.—Came from Virginia to Woodford County in 1841 and later settled on the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 34, east of the Centennial Church. Mrs. Pierce continued to farm after Mr. Pierce died.

PLACKETT, Jesse—Came to Woodford County from England in 1853, and sometime thereafter settled on the $E\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 22 of Panola Twp.

PLATT, Benonia and Jane Hamm Platt—Benonia died in 1860 and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery on the Geiger lot. He was a relative of Christian Geiger and an active member in the early Methodist Church in Panola Circuit. His wife later married Charles Clute.

PLEASANTS, Lewis Calvin and Rebecca Williams (1838-1906)—Lewis was born in Virginia on March 3, 1836 and died in El Paso, May 30, 1906 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. He first came to Woodford County in October, 1856 and was so pleased with the country that he remained. He wrote his family from Gabetown and they came on from Virginia the next fall. He purchased his first land, probably a wood lot, December 18, 1858 from James Hammers.

PLEASANTS, William H. and Polly Ann Brown (1817-1893)—William was born in Virginia, May 6, 1814, and died in El Paso in October, 1896. He entered Greene Twp. land for taxes in 1854, but did not move to it until 1857. (See Lewis Calvin Pleasants.) Polly Brown was from Botetourt County, Virginia, and her brother's boys, James and Charles S. Brown came from Indiana to work for the Pleasants family. Charles remained here permanently. Lewis Calvin, James and Walter H. Pleasants were sons, Walter being born in Gabetown. William acquired the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, Greene Twp. on November 17, 1855, and Lewis Calvin and his wife, Rebecca, moved west the next fall.

POTTER, Ephraim Sr. and (1) Nancy Overboy, (2) Elizabeth Hedrick—Ephraim was born in North Carolina, August 24, 1796. He died January 1, 1861 (one account says December 1, 1862). His first wife died in Indiana, leaving eight children. The second wife accompanied Mr. Potter to Illinois in 1837, settling on the home farm in Palestine Twp. now owned by Mrs. Clyde Colburn. There were ten children in the second family, Abram Potter being born south of Secor, December 6, 1840, and Marion, April 2, 1843. The latter farmed the place for years after his father's death. Ephraim Sr. purchased the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9 on September 18, 1856. He was a member of the Christian Church.

POTTER, James M.—James lived in the El Paso area in 1857 when he purchased Lot 9, Block 25 in the city on August 5.

POTTER, Joseph and Nancy—Purchased the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 28 of El Paso Twp. from David and Susan Hibbs, who had patented it November 1, 1839. They sold it to Caleb and Ann Horn on September 24, 1849. There were two Joseph Potters.

POTTER, Joseph and Lydia—Joseph was born in 1769 in North Carolina and died near Centennial in 1845, where he and his wife had joined their son, Ephraim, and his large family to spend their later years. His ancestors were from Holland in the 17th century. There were two Joseph Potters.

POTTER, Marion and Mary Ann Frey—Marion was born in south Palestine Twp. on his father Ephraim's farm, April 2, 1843. He died September 22, 1897. For many years he succeeded his parents in the operation of the home farm. He served in Company F., 88th Illinois Infantry in the Civil War. Seven children were born to Marion and Mary Ann: Bert L., Viola, Chelse, Gilford and Jeb; two others died when small. Marion was a Democrat.

POTTER, Samuel and N.—An 1859 resident in South Palestine Twp. His relationship to other Potters is unknown.

POTTER, William and Mariah L. (1833-1857)—Came from Indiana to Woodford County in 1845, and thereafter settled on the NE 40 acres in Section 17, Palestine Twp. He may also have been in Greene Twp. for a time. Mariah is buried in Harper Cemetery.

POWELL, Eli—Eli was a railroad carpenter when the TP&W was built in 1856. He settled in Secor and died in 1871.

POWELL, John A. and M. A. (wife)—Lived in El Paso Twp. in the '50's. An eleven year old son is buried in Kappa Cemetery who died March 11, 1857.

PUNKE, Reinhold F. and Wilhelmina Otto—Reinhold was born in Prussia, August 14, 1840, and came to the United States in 1859. He was employed as a furniture maker by August Strathman, dealer in El Paso, from about 1862 to 1865, when he engaged in farming in Panola Twp. and became a permanent resident there. He and Wilhelmina married in 1865. Their children were: Adolph, Herman, Reinhold Jr., Amelia (Funk) and Minnie (Yoder). He was a Knight Templar Mason and a member of the Christian Church.

RADCLIFF, John and Hannah—They lived in the Centennial Church neighborhood in 1856 when Hannah died on June 9.

RANDOLPH, N. E. and R. I. (wife)—They lived in Greene in 1856.

RAY, Elias S. and Mary Margaret (1830-1904)—Elias was born July 6, 1825 and died here November 4, 1902. He and Mary lived near the spot the old "Josephine" post office once operated under Simpson Y. Bamard. (See "Trailblazers" Chapter.) They were active in the early Methodist Church in Panola in 1858. Elias purchased the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 24, Greene Twp. from Thomas Patterson, Sr., March 2, 1855.

RAY, George Jr. and Jane Banta—George was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, March 11, 1808. He came to Woodford County near Metamora in 1836. He was sheriff of Woodford County in 1856; being elected twice. George served several terms as Justice of the Peace when he later lived in Greene Twp. He died at Metamora, March, 1897. There were nine children born to George and Jane, Jeremiah Ray, Civil War veteran, being the eldest. He would be an ancestral relative of George J. Ray (See: Chapter 17.).

RAY, Jeremiah Sr., and Harriet T. Swallow—Jeremiah was the son of George and Jane Banta Ray, born near Metamora, July 6, 1839. He purchased the $E\frac{1}{2}$ of the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 23, Greene Twp., March 3, 1855. Jeremiah Ray served in the Civil War, enlisting in Company G. 17th Illinois Infantry in May, 1861, serving three years. After the war he farmed in Roanoke Twp., then moved to Kansas, and finally settled in Panola Twp. and lastly in Greene. He was a Republican and a Baptist.

RAY, John—Bought goods in Panola in 1854. He settled west of town, in Greene Twp. He attended the First Methodist Conference in Panola held November 7-8, 1857.

RAYBURN, James—A Christian preacher, serving in the Panther Creek areas as early as 1835. He is believed to have been a Circuit rider.

REED—Was from Spring Bay and moved to Kappa in 1853, opening its second store. It is believed the post office was in it. An old history says, incorrectly we believe, that he was Kappa's first postmaster. (See Chapter 14, "Our Neighbors.") Possibly William Jones kept the office in the Reed Store.

REEDY, M. S.—Mr. Reedy was born in Pennsylvania on July 8, 1816. He came to Greene Twp. on October 18, 1858.

REEDY, William B.—Settled in Greene Twp. prior to 1858. His daughter married Valentine Houseworth, later El Paso residents.

REEL, George and M. M.—They lived in the Bowling Green area at an unknown date, but were there in 1880.

REINHARD, Jacob—Came from Germany in 1854 and thereafter settled on the $E\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NE\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, Palestine Twp.

RENDER, John D.—Died May 30, 1884, aged 62 years.

RENDER, John F. and Jane—John was born in Yorkshire, England.

RENDER, Michael and Susan Capels Render—Michael was born in 1825 and died near here on New Year's day, 1861 and is buried in Evergreen.

RENDER, Thomas and (1) Catherine and (2) Sarah Ann—Thomas died July 27, 1893 aged 67 years. Catherine died March 8, 1870 aged 55 years; Sarah Ann, (1852-1941).

REUST, Christian—Lived in Panola or Greene Twp. in the early '50's. He died September 14, 1856. He is buried in Harper Cemetery.

REYNOLDS, Addison Jr.—Probably son or near relative of the early Bowling Green physician, Dr. A. Reynolds. This Addison Reynolds was a farmer and cattleman who came from Ohio around 1858 and settled five miles southeast of Bowling Green site on the center of the NW¼ of Section 10 in Kansas Twp.

REYNOLDS, Dr. Albert—A pioneer physician of Bowling Green, settling there in 1838, probably the third doctor in Woodford County's area. First was Dr. Hazzard, Germantown, 1836; second was probably Dr. William C. Anthony, Bowling Green, 1837.

When the railroad came through Kappa, Dr. Reynolds moved there, becoming its first physician in 1854, building an office that year. Addison Reynolds, possibly a son, was a farmer in Kansas Twp. Another son, Albert Reynolds, Jr. was a later El Paso doctor, who may have practiced with his father in Kappa before 1860.

RICHARDSON, Aaron Jr. and Martha J. McKee (1840-1921)—Aaron was born in Bowling Green on October 28, 1837, the son of Aaron and Mary Richardson, early pioneers there. He later owned land in Sections 7 and 12 of Palestine Twp. and died there September 30, 1918. He is buried in the Secor Cemetery.

RICHARDSON, Aaron A. Sr. and Mary—Aaron was born January 24, 1805 and died in Bowling Green on August 10, 1851. He is buried in the Bowling Green cemetery at the north edge of the village. Radford says he and his brother, James M. Richardson, arrived in 1831 and they soon opened a Bowling Green store, Woodford County's second. The first had been operated by Wilson Tucker at Metamora, for whom Lincoln once handled a case, the records being discovered and photographed by Attorney H. H. Baker. A son, Aaron Jr., was born in Bowling Green on October 28, 1837. Aaron Sr. was credited with "Richardson's Addition" to Bowling Green. The elder Aaron bought land in Section 6 of Kansas Twp. on January 18, 1840.

RICHARDSON, Charles R. and Sarah J. (1856-1884)—Probably one of the Bowling Green family of Richardsons, who became an early merchant in Secor in 1856-7. He patented the SW¼ of Section 5 in Greene Twp. on November 9, 1855, but sold it in less than a year. He is buried in the Secor Cemetery.

RICHARDSON, James M. and Nancy (1811-1886)—James was a brother of Aaron Senior, and became an 1831 resident at Bowling Green according to Radford, where he and Aaron Sr. operated a store, and James operated a gristmill and sawmill there. That store was the second in Woodford County (See Aaron Sr.). A son named William R. was born in Bowling Green on June 3, 1835. Probably among Bowling Green's first residents, James eventually owned considerable Palestine Twp. land in Sections 8, 9 and 19, moving from the dying town out onto the prairie. He also owned Kansas Twp. land which he purchased in Section 6 on January 18, 1840. James Madison Richardson was born June 10, 1810, and was named for the man then the 4th President of the U. S. He died near Secor on August 12, 1875 and is buried in that Cemetery.

RICHARDSON, William R. and Nancy Butler (1832-1906)—William was born June 3, 1835, probably at Bowling Green, and died May 15, 1907. He is buried in the Secor Cemetery. He was probably Palestine Twp.'s oldest life-long resident.

RITTER, S. and L. S. (wife)—Lived along the Mackinaw in 1858.

ROBESON, Columbus A. and Susan F. Haynes—C. A. Robeson was born in Bowling Green on November 2, 1841, the son of James and Jane Earle Robeson. He was born in a log cabin. Attending Eureka College in the late '50's, he enlisted in Company E. 11th Cavalry, the Regiment commanded by Colonel

Robert G. Ingersoll. He farmed in Palestine Twp. and died in Secor and is buried there. He was the father of Judge E. E. Robeson who died in 1953.

ROBESON, Rev. James E.—He was born in Wellsburg, West Virginia (then Virginia) in 1797 and died near Secor in 1888. Radford says Rev. Robeson was in Bowling Green in 1835, where he was a merchant as well as a pioneer preacher. He began his ministry when only twenty years old, and followed it until he died when over ninety. He was a one-time Secor resident, and an 1843 Justice of the Peace at Bowling Green. He was the father of C. A. Robeson.

ROBESON, James W. and Margaret (1841-1888)—James was born January 19, 1837 and died September 24, 1914. He was probably born in Bowling Green.

ROBINSON, James W. and E.—They buried a daughter, Sarah S., in Bowling Green Cemetery at an early unknown date. James came from Ohio about 1837, and was farming in Palestine Twp. thereafter. He settled about the center of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9 in Kansas Twp. where he was living in 1872.

ROBINSON, Orman and Mary Ann—Orman was born January 23, 1805 and died February 27, 1852 and is buried in East White Oak Cemetery. He patented the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11, Kansas Twp. on February 4, 1834, *the earliest we have in our records*. It would indicate the Jeffersonian surveys were completed for that area in 1833-4. He also patented the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2, December 30, 1834, and added land in Section 11 in 1836.

ROBINSON, William R. and Elizabeth—William was born August 17, 1828, died December 22, 1864 and is buried in East White Oak. They were living in East White Oak area in 1859, probably before, as he patented the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14 on May 27, 1845.

ROCKENFELLER, John M., William, and Theodore—They all came to Illinois from Germany in 1855 and were farming soon after on Section 13, El Paso Twp. where John owned 120 acres.

ROGERS, S. T. and Miss M. V. Everest—Mr. Rogers was born in New York state on September 6, 1840 and died in El Paso on November 10, 1884. He entered Eureka College in 1854 and settled as a druggist in El Paso in 1858. Mr. Rogers spent three years in the Civil War, 1st Lieutenant, Company A., 86th Voluntary Infantry. He was wounded in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain in Georgia. There were many others killed and wounded in his company who resided in the El Paso vicinity. He served as deputy Internal Revenue Collector 1865-70. The GAR Post in El Paso was named in his honor, the "S. T. Roger's Post." He was El Paso's 8th Mayor in 1879. He was cashier of the old El Paso National Bank in 1884 at his death.

ROSS, James and Kate A.—James was possibly El Paso's first blacksmith, about 1857. He and Kate are buried in the Centennial Cemetery.

ROUSE, George W.—A manufacturer who came to Illinois from Connecticut in 1850. He had a small factory in El Paso at an early date.

ROWE—Member of the First Methodist Conference in Panola held November 7-8, 1857.

RUDDELL, Andrew—Came to Greene Twp. in 1856.

RUSSELL, Charles W., L. A., and William H.—Listed as coming to Woodford County around 1857 from Indiana, and thereafter engaging in farming in Palestine Twp. The location is unknown.

RUVENACHT, Mrs. Barbara—She was born in Alsace on October 26, 1815, and came to Woodford County in 1848, and to Panola Twp. about 1852. She was possibly the mother of John Ruvenacht, inheriting his lands in Sections 3 and 10 in Panola Twp. She apparently ran the farm land a number of years herself. She died December 26, 1900 and is buried in Baughman Cemetery.

RUVENACHT, Christian and Catharina Risser (1835-1926)—Christian was born in Alsace on December 26, 1834 and came to America to Panola Twp. in 1852, buying his first land there from George Danforth on November 22, 1854. After working as a farm hand for others, he accumulated considerable prairie acreage there, including his home on the north half of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3 in Panola Twp. He first broke most of this prairie ground. He married in 1864. He died December 11, 1904 and is buried in Baughman Cemetery. There were three children: Annie, Barbara and Solomon.

RUVENACHT, John—He was born in Illinois in 1848. Later a farmer and stockman in Section 3, Panola Twp.

SALTSMAN, Henry—Born April 18, 1808 in New York and died July 20, 1891. Henry operated a Panola village hotel and livery in 1856. He had visited Panola in 1855 and decided to locate there. He went back to New York for his wife and children in '56. He built his house, said to be the seventh house in Panola Twp. He was the first township Police Magistrate. He is buried in the Harper Cemetery.

SALTZMAN, Jacob and Magdalena Beller—Jacob was born December 1, 1833 and died on June 23, 1909. He is buried in the Baughman Cemetery. It is believed that Jacob and Magdalena lived in Panola Twp. prior the Civil War and were related to other Saltsmans even though there is a spelling difference.

SALTSMAN, Sanford B.—Came to Panola Twp. from New York in 1856 when seventeen. He was born March 8, 1839 and died November 16, 1876. He was in the Civil War, Troop G., 4th Illinois Cavalry. He is buried in the Harper Cemetery.

SAMPLE, Benjamin and Sarah J.—Benjamin was the first Police Magistrate in Greene Twp. in 1855 with William Harper the other. He sold "metes and bounds" land in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 32, Greene Twp. to Samuel Arnold on February 23, 1850.

SCHAFER, Christian and Phoebe Boeshar (1837-1919)—Christian was born in Germany on September 21, 1834 and came to America in 1851, settling in Wheeling, West Virginia, (then Virginia). In 1854 he came by water to Peoria, where he purchased some lots and married Phoebe Boeshar, also from Germany, but who had lived in Brooklyn. They sold their Peoria lots and came to the new ICRR town of Kappa in October, 1854, where he engaged in the manufacturing of shoes, he cutting, and at one time, sixteen men worked for him assembling them. In 1861 he came to El Paso, branching out into other lines of business and becoming a leading merchant. He retired in 1893 in the home his granddaughter, Mrs. Ethel Coss, lives in today. He died January 2, 1906 and is buried in Evergreen. Christian was a Republican, whose first vote was for Lincoln.

SCRIVEN, A.—Farmed in Section 18, El Paso Twp. possibly as early as 1858.

SECOR, Minor—Member of the First Methodist Conference at Panola held November 7-8, 1857. He was possibly a relative of Charles Secor, for whom the town was named.

SEEVER, N. L.—ICRR's second agent in Panola, Illinois. He came there in 1854.

SENTIL, Andrew and Rosanna—Were living in Greene Twp. near Gabetown in 1859 or before. Andrew was born September 30, 1809 and died February 14, 1863. He is buried at Gabetown.

SHAFFER, Orlando and Anna Deval (Born December 25, 1835, died August 30, 1885.)—Orlando was born February 25, 1827 and died June 29, 1869. He moved from Washington, Illinois to El Paso Twp. in 1856. He purchased land from John Simpson in the NE corner of Section 28, El Paso Twp., which farm has been in possession of the Shaffer family ever since. He was the father of John Wilson Shaffer who died May 20, 1935.

SHARP, Dennis—ICRR employee who settled in Panola village in 1853.

SHAW, Oliver P. and Celinda C.—Came from Ohio in 1856 and settled near the center of Section 11 in Panola Twp. where Oliver finally owned 240 acres. A son died on the farm November 27, 1857 and was at first buried there, and later removed to the new Evergreen Cemetery as were many of these early dead. Oliver was a member of the early Panola Methodist Church board, when the meetings were held in the freight house there.

SHEPHERD, Henry—Born in Virginia on March 8, 1811 and died in Palestine Twp. May 4, 1865. He settled in Palestine Twp. in 1843. A son, Benjamin F., was born in Palestine in 1853.

SHICKENDANZ, George and Jacobina—Believed to have come from Germany in the early '50's. They purchased the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33 in Panola Twp. on September 15, 1856, and afterwards rented or sold to the Philip Blumenshines.

SHREVE, David—Active in the 1858 Methodist Church organization of the Panola Circuit. He was probably a brother of Israel Shreve (Mrs. Arthur Sutton of Long Island believes).

SHREVE, Israel and Rebecca Eggman Shreve—Israel was born March 29, 1834 and died August 1, 1893. Rebecca was born July 3, 1838 and died April, 1918. Israel was a native of Somerset, Ohio. He settled in Minier prior to 1855 and moved into El Paso about 1857 or 8. He was a Methodist churchman and Sunday School superintendent for many years. He was a descendant of Captain Henry Miller Shreve, credited with inventing the steam boat, and for whom Shreveport, Louisiana is named.

SHUR, Cyrus P.—Cyrus was born October 22, 1822 in Morrow County, Ohio, son of Jacob Shur. He was a cousin of Artemus O. Shur, an early El Paso banker. Cyrus became a Brigadier General, commanding the 3rd Brigade of the 15th Division just prior to, but not in the Civil War, in the Ohio National Guard before coming to El Paso. It was an elected position then. He was Mayor in 1875-6.

SIMPSON, John—Purchased part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28 on August 27, 1854.

SIMPSON, Robert and Mary—On November 22, 1851 purchased from Caleb Hom the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, El Paso Twp.

SINCLAIR, Hector—Came from New York City in 1856 and settled thereafter on 80 acres on the south side of Section 15, Palestine Twp.

SLANE, Elias Posten—An Irishman from Tyrone County who settled in Greene Twp. in 1853, but moved to Edwards Station in Peoria County in 1856. His daughter, Elizabeth Margaret Slane, married William Beale of Greene Twp., and became the mother of Irvin Beale.

SLATER, Jesse—Born in 1838 or 1839 in Petworth, England. Working around El Paso's first depot in 1859, he introduced Britain's Member of Parliament, Richard Cobden, to Major Louis Chlopicki, El Paso's early Polish exile and restaurant owner, on March 23, 1859. (See Cobden diary: London Museum.)

Jesse died April 29, 1916. He is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery. (See Chapter 5 on Ludwik Chlopicki.)

SMISER, Adam—He was born in Germany in 1830, came to America in 1854, and to Woodford County in 1857. He was the father of John Smiser, grandfather of Peter Smiser. He was probably not settled on his Palestine farm before 1867, but had been in the area from '57. His farm was on the old State Road: the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33. He married Margaret Hutch of Germany.

SMITH, Albert—A Belgian, who came to America in 1852 and ran a confectionery store in El Paso's early days.

SMITH, Rev. F. M.—Pastor of the early Panola-El Paso Methodist Church, riding the circuit of that day which included the churches of Chenoa, Secor, El Paso, Willow Tree, Panola and Bunch Grove.

SMITH, Henry—Had an early Secor blacksmith shop in 1857.

SMITH, John—Came from Indiana to El Paso in the late '50's and was an early carpenter here.

SMITHSON, Oscar—His name is in Panola-El Paso Methodist Church books 1858. He may have been a relative of Rev. R. Smithson, first local Circuit Riding preacher in the local Methodist organization.

SMITHSON, Rev. R.—He was a Traveling, or Circuit Rider Methodist preacher, the first Methodist preacher Panola-El Paso ever had. His first quarterly conference was held in the Panola freight house, as we had no Methodist church in either Panola or El Paso. That date was November 7-8, 1857. Rev. Smithson may not have actually lived in El Paso, but he worked here in his regular church duties, as well as in Panola. The local preacher on this circuit was F. R. Tobias. Smithson was expelled from the Methodist Church for his southern views when the war days came, and he then moved and joined the Methodist Church, South.

SMOOTS, Jacob—He was the earliest sawmill operator near Kappa in the late 1840's. He sold it to Hiram Havens in 1850.

SNYDER, C. K.—Migrated from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1856 and settled on Section 22 in Greene Twp.

SOCKS, M. and C.—It is believed they lived in the El Paso area in the late 1850's.

SOCKS, Nicholas and Barbara—Nicholas was born March 3, 1804 and died March 9, 1887. His wife was born February 20, 1809 and died August 17, 1888. They are known to have been living near El Paso in 1859.

SPARKS, Asa and Amanda—Asa was a storekeeper in Kappa around 1857. He sold the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4 in Kansas Twp. to Anderson Van Scyoc on April 19, 1856.

SPAWR, George W. and Elizabeth Messer—They lived along the Mackinaw area in the spring of 1850. Elizabeth was a daughter of the Rev. Isaac Messer.

STEIGELMEIER, Casper—Farmed on Section 25, El Paso Twp. possibly as early as 1852.

STEIGELMEIER, Henry—Farmed in 1853 on Section 25 in El Paso Twp.

STEIGELMEIER, John—Farmed in 1856 on Section 25 in El Paso Twp.

STEPHENS, Louis—Lived in Montgomery Twp. in 1832. (Moore says 1833.) He was the father of William Stephens and Adam Stephens.

STEPHENSON, Cephas M. and Mary A. Livingston—Cephas was born in 1838 and died in 1909, the son of Henry Stephenson, whose land he inherited.

He was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania on April 2, 1838 of Scottish lineage. He served as director of the El Paso Fair.

STEPHENSON, Henry and Mary Meyers (1811-1874)—Henry was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania in 1806 and died in Greene Twp. on August 29, 1881. He and Mary came by steamer to Spring Bay in 1852 and settled on the E½ of the NW¼ of Section 20, which he had purchased from the Joliet, Illinois land speculator, George Cassaday, on June 9, 1952.

STEPHENSON, J. F.—He was the first Constable of Greene Twp. in 1855 with J. F. Mohr the other.

STOCK, John—Came from Germany in 1856 and afterward became a footwear dealer in El Paso. He built the first brick residence at 498 West Jefferson St. He was the father of Theodore Stock.

STITT, Samuel—Settled in Linn Twp. in 1856 with his widowed mother, Hannah Cooper Stitt. He then returned to their former Ohio home and married Mary A. Pickerell, December 20, 1860. He moved into Palestine Twp. in 1865, settling on 120 acres in Section 11.

STOCKWELL, Alanson V.—A physician and surgeon in El Paso in 1859. Originally from Vermont, he served in the Civil War.

STOCKWELL, Benajah and Adeline—He became the first official station agent in Panola for the Illinois Central, opened in early 1854. He was promoted until he became the General Freight Agent of the Illinois Central System. He owned the NE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 27 in Panola Twp. which he sold August 2, 1854.

STOCKWELL, Lucius and Malinda—They were early El Pasoans. They purchased Lots 1-2 in Block 30 from Wathen on September 23, 1859.

STONE, Eugene—Came to Kappa in 1859 and became a merchant. He was probably associated with Ira C. Stone.

STONE, Ira C.—He was born in Vermont on August 15, 1810 and died in Kappa, 1911—one of our few Centenarians. He settled in Kappa in 1859 and became a merchant retiring in 1875. He ran the Kappa postoffice in connection with his store from 1860 to 1875.

STONEBRAKER, Dr. A. S.—An early El Paso physician in 1865 who specialized in a remedy he called "Stonebraker's liniments."

STONEBRAKER, John M. and Mary B.—John was born in Maryland on August 6, 1834 and died February 25, 1887. He and Mary owned a farm in Panola Twp. and specialized in blooded Duroc Jersey hogs.

STOUT, Amasa and Susannah—The first to settle in the Greene Twp. area, arriving in Section 19 in 1828 according to Radford, whose father bought their farm in the NW¼ the next month after they patented it on June 13, 1836. Apparently they had been "squatters" from 1828 to 1836. They lived the first winter of 1828-9 in a three-sided rail pen with corn fodder heaped high around it. It has been said it got too crowded in the neighborhood for the Stouts after the McCord and Patrick and a few other families arrived, so they moved away, leaving on July 14, 1836. Their 1828 crop of corn was the earliest grown in eastern Woodford County, although the Phillips brothers may have grown corn in Kansas Twp. that year too. (Also see Gershom Harvey.)

STRATHMAN, August and Anna E. Balbach (1833-1887)—August was born in Prussia on July 2, 1833, and died here in 1888. He came to Illinois in 1851 and to El Paso early in 1858, to run a hotel located where the El Paso Theatre now stands at Front and Cherry Streets. He established a furniture and undertaking business in 1864, moving his business to Wathen's west side

in 1879. August constructed a building on the east block which was consumed in the fire of October 10, 1882. This fire had started in his hotel, the El Paso House.

STROTHER, David H.—David was born in Lexington, Missouri on August 18, 1843. He died March 12, 1905 in El Paso Illinois. He came to El Paso in 1864 and set up a barber chair in Park's insurance and J. P. office. One of exceptions to the 1860 limitation on listings, as he was the first Negro to ever vote in the U. S. as a result of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, voting in the City special election of Monday, April 4, 1870. Mayor Wathen, Jacob Fishburn and William Neifing (an election judge) were known to have been present. His brother, Charles Strother, voted soon thereafter. For years the Strother shop was on the alley of E. Front St. where Gamet Stack's Garage is located today. Later in 1872 the shop was moved into a basement where the Gayle Andrews shop now is, where it operated until Strother died. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. He was an intelligent, well-read Negro, who owned a great many books for his day and age. His death occurred in the house, now 197 West Fourth St., to which he moved shortly before. (See Chapter 17, "Name and Fame.")

STUMBAUGH, Levi Sr.—Came to Woodford County as early as 1841, and on to Panola Twp. when the prairie land opened up. He owned the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11, and his home was well back from the road near the center of it. The old Shiloh Church, then a United Brethern Church, had a half acre in the southwest corner. He was an uncle of the Levi (Jr.) who lived in El Paso.

SUTTON, Flora and Lora Mae—Their names appear on early Methodist Church books in the year 1858, when the church was a Panola organization. They were no doubt related to Thomas and George Sutton who came from England in 1851.

SUTTON, George and Hannah (1849-1875)—George was born in England on August 19, 1844 and came to America in 1851, settling on the south half of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23 in Palestine Twp. His brother Thomas settled the north half of this quarter. There were six children born to George and Hannah, three boys, three girls. James Sutton of El Paso is a son.

SUTTON, Thomas and Harriett Scales (1820-1875)—Thomas was born in Yorkshire, England on June 10, 1815, and died in El Paso on January 9, 1899 and is buried in Evergreen. Thomas and his wife came from England in 1855 to Woodford County, and a few years later settled on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23 in Palestine Twp., now the Ralph Sutton home. There were nine children: John, George, William, Thomas (born November 12, 1852 and father of Chester and Arthur Sutton), Harriett, Edward, Mary P. (Dearth), Anna Elizabeth, and Samuel K. Sutton, the latter being the father of Mary (Merrick), Ralph, Lawrence and Bernard Sutton. John Sutton was the father of Martha Jane (Armstrong).

SWATSLEY, George C.—Migrated from Augusta County, Virginia in 1856 to Woodford County, probably with his brother, H. H. Swatsley, and later settled on the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 15 in Greene Twp.

SWATSLEY, Henry H. and Margaret Nichols—Migrated from Augusta County, and later settled on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 15 in Greene Twp. They were the father and mother of James Swatsley, long time El Paso resident, and six other children.

TAYLOR, J. S. and Julia A. McCollum—Taylor died February 22, 1860, and his wife remarried a Sneed. They were residents at an early date in Panola Twp. Julia Taylor's name appears in the early Methodist Church records of 1858, and an infant daughter of the same name. They were living in El Paso village on January 10, 1859 when their son, John William Taylor was born, said on P 912 McLean County History to be the first birth in the new town of El Paso. They purchased Lot 3, Block 44 on October 25, 1857 from Gibson and sold it November 14, 1859 to Issac and William Jenkins.

TOBIAS, Franklin R. and Caroline—Franklin was a local preacher in Panola from the time of the First Methodist Conference there on November 7-8, 1857.

Salome Tobias, believed their daughter, married Adam Brown in El Paso on December 12, 1865, and Salome died here. This Salome is the grandmother of Mrs. Gladys M. Beak, State Regent of the DAR in 1953.

F. R. Tobias purchased the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27, Panola Twp. on March 26, 1858 and other land in said section the following year in November.

TOBIAS, Israel and Cynthia—Purchased Lot 2, Block 46 of Gibson on March 20, 1858.

TOMPKINS, P. H. and M. H.—Came to Woodford County in 1855. Mr. Tompkins was probably a relative of William Tompkins. He is believed to have lived in El Paso or the area prior to 1860. A son died here in 1862. P. H. became an early El Paso banker, whose bank finally failed.

TOMPKINS, William and Weltha V.—William was a native of New York state; came to Panola in the fall of 1855. A daughter married Robert A. McClellan, another early Panola settler. Tompkins patented the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27, Panola Twp. on August 20, 1853. He was Panola Twp.'s first assessor in 1855, and he opened a general store in Panola that year.

TOOL, Conrad H.—He was born in Virginia on December 11, 1819. He plowed his Greene County land in the fall of 1856 and moved to it in the following spring.

TRAXLER, Phillip and Christia—Purchased Lot 4, Block 46 from Gibson on December 29, 1857 in El Paso.

TRIBBY, D. W., John, Dr. Peter L., S. A.—Dr. Peter Tribby and John Tribby came to Secor in 1857 from Indiana. Dr. Tribby practiced medicine and was Secor's early druggist.

D. W. Tribby arrived in Secor in 1859 and S. A. Tribby came in 1860. They were brothers.

TROSBER, Deacon—He operated the first boarding house in Secor in 1857.

TROTTER, James W. Jr.—He was born in Duleek, Ireland, March 20, 1824 and came to America in 1849. He bought land in the school section, No. 16 in El Paso Twp. from the state on September 28, 1853, and other land in Palestine Twp. about the same time. He sold the El Paso Twp. land to William Ostler in 1854 and moved to Bloomington about 1855, where he died January 24, 1907. He was an Episcopalian.

TROTTER, John W. and Isabelle—Lived in Palestine Twp. in 1854 where daughters Anna Emily and Isabelle were born. The former was Anna Trotter Unbarger, later Anna Anthenat (1854-1933). Trotter volunteered in Company E., 94th Illinois Infantry, leaving his wife with two children to run his farm. He was killed in Texas and buried there. Fayette Anthenat Bailey is a granddaughter. He lived in Gridley Twp. when he left for the Civil War. He was an Episcopalian.

TUCKER, John and Louisa L. Wathen—John was a Kentuckian who settled in south El Paso Twp. in 1852. He married a sister of James H. Wathen, co-founder of the city of El Paso, Illinois. They formerly lived near Pekin in 1831. A daughter, Mary E. Tucker, married George A. Yerion of El Paso, and another daughter who never married (Anna Tucker) lived in the home of James H. Wathen, her uncle, until his death in 1902, after which she lived alone. Tucker's earliest land patent was dated August 25, 1852, and was the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 21, El Paso Twp.

TUCKER, Thomas—He was a Kentuckian, settled on Palestine prairie in 1837 not far from Allen Hart.

TUCKER, William F. and Margaret (1818-1901)—William was born September 14, 1816 and died near El Paso on January 5, 1895. He and Margaret were known to be living in the El Paso area in 1854 before the town was built.

TURNIPSEED, John and Mary (1814-1864)—They are known to have lived along the Mackinaw River east of Kappa as early as 1840, when they buried a daughter in the Messer Cemetery.

TYLER, John and Sarah A. Brewer—John was born in Virgil, New York on January 8, 1831. He first settled in Panola Twp. on January 3, 1856. He later established the farm Koble Kyser lived on for many years.

Mr. Tyler died June 15, 1894. His wife was the daughter of John and Rebecca Brewer, Panola Twp.'s first pioneer family. She was a younger daughter, born February 15, 1839, no doubt the first white child born in Panola Twp. She died October 24, 1908 and is buried in Evergreen, as is John. There were three children, Emma, Lee and W. B. John served as Supervisor for twelve years. He was a Democrat. Sarah A. Brewer was probably the oldest of the Panola-El Paso life-long residents.

UNDERHILL, Isaac—Built the first store in 1856, operated by E. T. Van Alstyne in Secor, in which was the town's first post office. He was a large Secor land owner. He built Secor's first big hotel, a brick structure costing \$48,000.00, which finally burned and bankrupted the owner in 1874.

UNDERHILL, N. C.—His name is on Methodist records of 1859. He was probably a relative of Isaac.

VAN ALSTINE, Cornelius—The first postmaster of Secor, and one of its earliest storekeepers. He married twice, John E., the oldest son, was born near Beardstown, Illinois in 1854.

VAN ALSTINE, E. T.—Built the first house in Secor in 1856. He is buried in the Gabetown Cemetery, and probably lived in that area before Secor was founded.

VAN ALSTINE, John E. and Mary E. Hart—John was the son of Cornelius, born in 1854 near Beardstown, Illinois. He came to Palestine Twp. in 1856, settling in Secor when it was founded. He married the daughter of Allen Hart, 1837 Palestine settler. He lived late in life in Greene Twp.

VAN BUSKIRK, Thomas—Settled south of the Mackinaw River at an early date. He died at the age of 70 on June 8, 1851. He is buried in the Hinthorn Cemetery.

VANCE, James—A resident in Kansas-Montgomery Twps. in 1837, perhaps earlier. The area's first Baptist Church was organized in his home in 1837. (See Rev. Isaac Newell.) When these two townships were divided, he became Montgomery's first Supervisor.

VANDEGRAFT, Henry and Elizabeth (1828-1912)—Lived in the Money Creek area south of the Mackinaw in 1858. Henry was born February 6, 1825 and died November 15, 1906.

VANDEGRAFT, Reason and Abigail (1812-1887)—Reason was born March 5, 1810 and died May 18, 1870. They were early settlers in the Money Creek area just south of the Mackinaw River. Reason is buried in the Hinthorn Cemetery.

VAN DOREN, Catherine—Purchased Lot 8, Block 33 from Gibson on April 5, 1858 and sold it to Rev. William T. Adams in 1864.

VAN SCYOC, Anderson Sr. and (1) Mary L. Carr (1840-1865), (2) Mrs. Margaret J. Pierce (1835-)—Anderson was born in Marshall County, Virginia on July 12, 1822. He came to Indiana about 1825 with his parents, John and Margaret (Shepherd) Van Scyoc, and with them by team and wagon to Palestine Twp., arriving March 5, 1838. He married Miss Carr on December 31, 1857 and after her death in 1865 contracted a second marriage to Mrs. Pierce on April 17, 1873. There were four children. Anderson died in 1908 and is buried in the Centennial Church Cemetery.

VAN SCYOC, John and Margaret Shepherd (1789-1878)—John was a Virginian who moved into Shelby County, Indiana about 1825, and on to Palestine Twp. with team and wagon, arriving there March 5, 1838. He and Margaret had intended to settle on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4 in Kansas Twp., which they had patented October 16, 1837 before their trip, but decided to move on an 80 acres due a soldier named William Mitchell which was over in Palestine, then in McLean County. He lived there the rest of his life and acquired much more land. He died July 18, 1847 and was buried in the Centennial Cemetery. His widow later contracted a second marriage to James Pearson. John and Margaret were the parents of Anderson Van Scyoc, who finally took over the home farm. They also had two daughters.

VAN VLEET, M.—Purchased with W. H. Boies the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 10 in Block 43 from Gibson in 1857.

VOGEL, Sebastian—Settled in Greene Twp. in 1857. Ancestor of the "Vogel settlement."

WAITE, Frederick T. and (1) Susan Hazen (1825-1883), (2) Melvina (Howard) Hazen (1835-)—Frederick was born August 24, 1824 in Hartford, Vermont. He died December 20, 1889 at El Paso. They came from Tarrytown, New York to Panola Twp. in 1855 and settled on the N½ of the NW¼ of Section 27, occupied in 1953 by Leslie Guard. Both husband and wife were singers and musicians. There were the following children: Franklin H., who was only one year old when his parents brought him west, where he taught music until he died of typhoid fever on December 3, 1877; Azro Hazen, father of Lois and Marjorie and long-time El Paso hardware dealer; Frederick T. Jr.; Emma Waite (Bennett); and Lillie Waite (Jessop). All these children except Azro H. finally moved into Arizona and pioneered that country. Frederick Waite was a Whig, later Republican, and a Presbyterian.

WALDEN, Thomas—An Englishman who was in Metamora in 1853 and Panola Twp. in 1857.

WALDRON, Edward—An Englishman who was in Panola Twp. in 1852.

WALTZEN, Ede—Came to Woodford County from Hanover, Germany in 1848, and at some later unknown date settled the SE¼ of Section 5 and 100 acres south of it. His home was near old School #6, on the south center line of the section.

WARD, Charles—Came to Woodford County from England in 1853, and to the E½ of the SE¼ of Section 10 in Palestine Twp. in 1858. He owned another 80 acres south of this also.

WARD, John and Jane Bryson—John was born in Marshall County, West Virginia, (then Virginia) July 17, 1823. He came by steamer to Peoria in 1857 and located on the W½ of Section 19 in Panola Twp. where he finally owned about 300 acres. Their marriage was on February 17, 1852, and Darwin A. Ward was a son, the latter farmed this land until around 1917.

WARNER, John R. and Sarah Konkler—Settled in Palestine Twp. in 1837. John was the father of John L. Warner. He and Sarah were both active in early Methodist Church of Panola and El Paso. He was a Democrat politically.

WARNER, Rheuben—His name is on Methodist records of above church January 22, 1859. He attended the Methodist conference in Panola on November 7-8, 1857.

WATHEN, James H.—Born in 1816 and died in 1902. He was from Bardstown, Kentucky and was co-founder of El Paso in 1854 with George L. Gibson. He moved into the new town in 1857, from his home in Washington, Illinois. James patented 560 acres of land in El Paso Twp. alone, and more elsewhere. (See Chapter 4 on "Railroads and Founding Fathers.") He built today's Elms Motel for his home in 1858. He was usually called "Major", but he had no war service. He served as Mayor of El Paso in 1879-80.

WATKINS, Amos—Amos was the brother of Warren C. Watkins, who came with him from Kentucky to Sangamon County in 1828 and on to the upper Panther Creek Grove settlement in 1830, just before the "winter of the deep snows". (See Warren C. Watkins.) They were in the Bowling Green neighborhood in 1836.

WATKINS, Warren C. and Nancy Swarens—They were Kentuckians who migrated to Sangamon County, Illinois in 1828, and in 1830 they came on into the upper Panther Creek Grove settlement in Greene Twp., building their cabin just before the "winter of the deep snows." They are known to have lived in Palestine near the Olio line in 1836, although some accounts say it was just over the Olio line. Warren was a brother of Amos Watkins, another 1830 settler there. Warren and Nancy's daughter, Elmira L. Watkins, married Daniel

R. Meek, a Walnut Grove settler of 1830, at her home on May 24, 1849. Warren and Nancy lived to the age of 82, but we cannot locate dates. The first Palestine Twp. school was built near Warren's cabin in 1844.

WELLS, John—Active in early Panola Methodism, 1857-8.

WELTE, Rosena—Purchased the $E\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 2, Block 20 from Gibson on March 18, 1858.

WEST, John—Came to Woodford County from Ohio in 1857. He soon settled in the NE part of Section 23, land which surrounded the school known as the Punke School.

WETHERINGTON, C.—Active in early Methodist Church circles, 1857.

WHITAKER, Miss Deborah and Miss Alice—Charter members of the first El Paso Baptist Church organized January 21, 1858.

WHORRELL, John—Resided in El Paso Twp. in 1856.

WHORRELL, Joseph—Began farming Section 7 west of El Paso, possibly as early as 1852.

WHORRELL, William and Sarah—Patented the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7 on September 25, 1852.

WILKERSON, Joseph and Nancy—Lived in Greene Twp. Panther Creek settlement in 1832 (Radford). He patented part of the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19 there on November 30, 1835, and sold it to B. J. Radford Sr., February 11, 1837.

WILLIAMS, Lewis and Elizabeth—Lewis was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania on May 30, 1821, came to Woodford County in 1849, and to a Greene Twp. farm in 1858. His home was on the SE corner of Section 11, surrounding which he owned 360 acres. He purchased the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of the $SE\frac{1}{4}$ on January 28, 1856.

WILLIAMS, Phillip—Came to Woodford County in 1856 from Virginia and settled on Section 11 of Kansas Twp.

WILLIAMSON, Mathias and Amy (1815-1898)—Came from Butler County, Ohio in 1857 and settled in the woods about a mile north of the Secor site. By a prior marriage, he was the father of Peter (1830) and John (1832). By the second marriage he was the parent of William (father of George Williamson, long an El Paso resident), James Alvin and Louis W. Mathias was born in Ohio on August 22, 1803 and died December 7, 1877 and is buried in Evergreen. He had lived for many years in the Gabetown neighborhood.

WILLIS, Francis M. and "Passey" Hespacia Davidson—Francis came to Woodford County at a spot near the site of Cruger in 1829, and soon moved to the Bowling Green settlement, and is credited with helping to stake out that village in 1831, although the recording was made in 1836. He purchased the Moore gristmill and dam on Panther Creek a mile to the northwest in 1831. He owned land in Section 6 of Kansas Twp. which he sold on April 4, 1843 to John Anderson, and once owned 160 acres in El Paso Twp., where he served as tax collector for years. He died June 9, 1875 and his wife on March 22, 1892. They were members of the earliest Christian Church in Walnut Grove. (See Chapter 3, "Bowling Green.")

WILLIS, William R. and Amanda J.—William was from Hopkins County, Kentucky, and was probably born there in 1813. He may have been a brother of Francis M. Willis, as he too settled first near the site of Cruger, and (Radford says) came to the Walnut Grove area about 1831. We know he was working for the Illinois Central during the days of its construction through El Paso. On April 2, 1853 he purchased the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 29, El Paso Twp. As soon as John Bennett completed the "Union House", William Willis

became manager. Thus he was El Paso's first regular hotel keeper, and settled here in late 1856. He became a lawyer in 1870, after serving as Police Magistrate, Justice of the Peace, auctioneer, and real estate conveyances in the war days and after. He purchased the "El Paso Hotel" site and building from Gibson, Lot 12, Block 43, on March 12, 1857. Gibson had intended it for a store and changed it into a hotel building.

WILSON, Amos Q.—Early Palestine minister and Civil War veteran. He was born June 12, 1830 and died May 30, 1909. He is buried in the Secor Cemetery. He attended the Church of Christ.

WILSON, Jonathan R. and Sarah Ann—Jonathan was the son of Nathaniel Wilson, and came to Woodford County with him to the Metamora area in 1835. He was born in New Hampshire on February 27, 1823. Shortly after arriving here, he helped complete the section surveys in the Woodford County townships, carrying surveyors chains. Jonathan purchased the E½ of the NW¼ of Section 20 in Greene Twp. on February 6, 1850, and other land soon after, moving there that year.

WILSON, Nathaniel—Father of Jonathan R. Wilson. He was from Barnstead, New Hampshire, and moved to near Metamora in 1835. He entered and purchased land in Sections 17-19 and 20 in Green Twp. in 1850 and moved there that year, as did his son.

WOODS, Gabriel S.—He is one of the Woods family who lived in the Gabetown area in the early 1850's. Gabriel was the first township clerk of Greene when it was formed in 1855. He enlisted in Company D., 108th Illinois Infantry in the Civil War, and became a Second Lieutenant. Most histories credit his nickname "Gabe" with the naming of Gabetown. However, there was also a storekeeper named "Gabe" Gish there, and the Pleasants family thought the town was named for him.

WOODS, James and Elizabeth—James was one of the Woods family which lived near Gabetown in the 1850's. James and Elizabeth Woods sold the SE¼ of the SW¼ of Section 9 in Greene Twp. to Leland and Elizabeth Cram on April 25, 1855, and for them was named the old Cram School.

WOODS, John and Susan F.—Of the same family as James Woods. They came from Roanoke, Virginia in 1851 and settled the W½ of the SE¼ of Section 29, with other land on the east.

WOODS, William W.—Born in Pennsylvania in 1813, he migrated into Greene Twp. in 1856 as did many others from the Keystone State. Probably unrelated to the other Woods families, he built his cabin one-half mile east of the Greene Town Hall.

WOOSELY, E. A.—Came to Woodford County from Kentucky in 1830 and finally settled on the W½ of the SE¼ of Section 29, Palestine, Twp. An early store was on his land, across the road from what became the "Shepard" school. The little settlement was sometimes called "Poketown." He was a farmer and stockman.

WORK, Samuel—Samuel lived in Panola in 1855, where he served with S. G. Lewis as first police magistrate.

YERION, George A. and Mary S. Tucker—George was born in Wythe County, Virginia, June 13, 1833, and settled on land in southern El Paso Twp. in 1852. He purchased the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30 on March 10, 1858. He was the son of William Yerion. George is buried in the Kappa Cemetery.

YERION, Dr. Joseph R.,—Brother of George A. Yerion, who also came to Woodford County from Virginia possibly as early as 1849. He settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29 in Palestine Twp. about 1852. He studied medicine and moved to Weatherford, Texas.

YERION, William and Eliza Campbell—William was born in Wythe County, Virginia on January 12, 1801. He patented the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30 in El Paso Twp. on August 26, 1850, and probably settled it at that time. He was the father of George A. and Dr. Joseph R. Yerion. He died September 24, 1887 and is buried in the Centennial Cemetery. William made a six weeks covered wagon trip from Virginia, arriving in Peoria County on June 2, 1840.

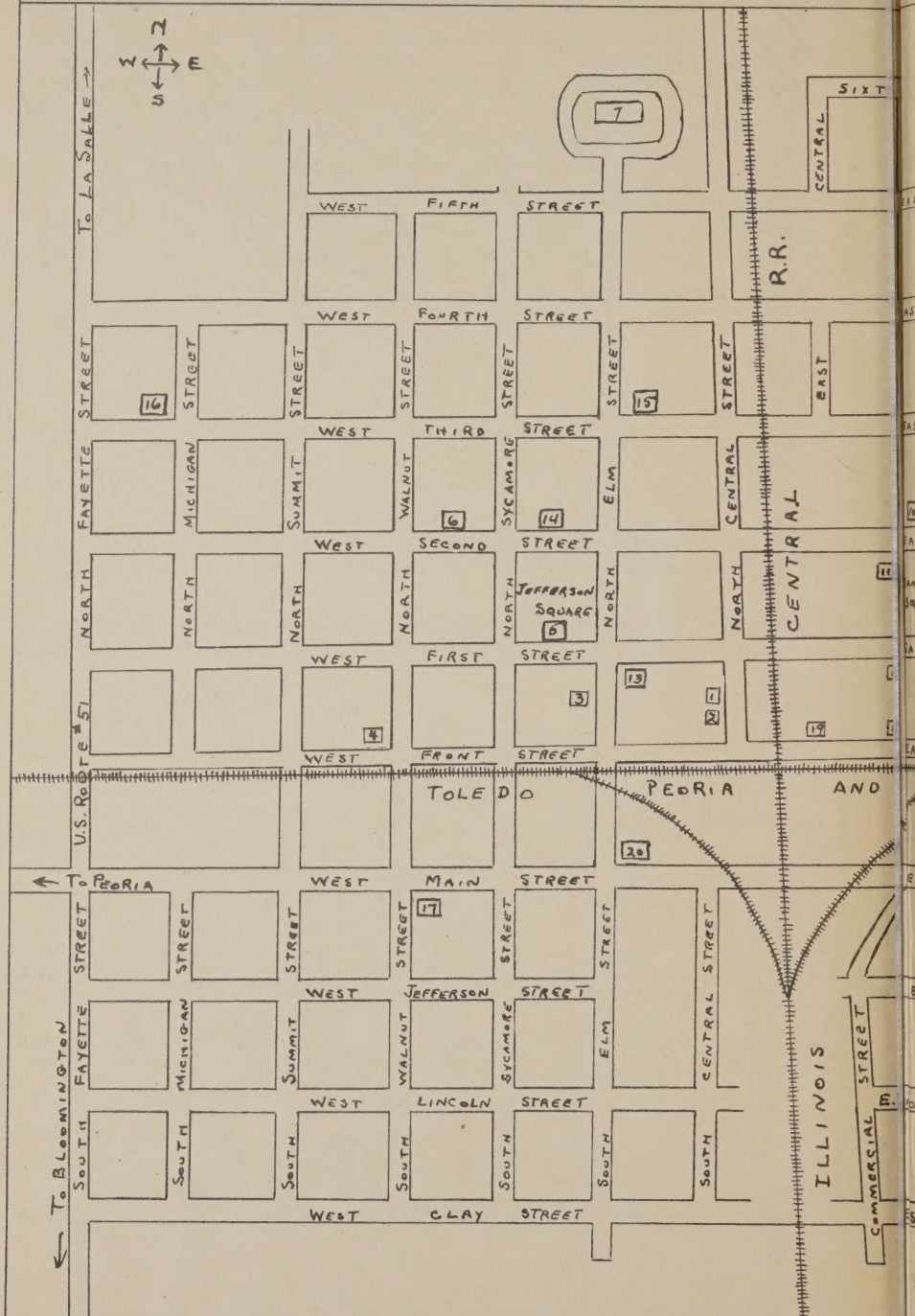
YODER, A. Z.—Came from Pennsylvania in 1850 and settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, Kansas Twp.

ZIEGENHAIN, Ch(ristian?)—Came to Woodford County from Germany in 1850 and settled near the Carlock land on Section 19, Kansas Twp., possibly as a renter.

ZIEMS, Adolph—Came to Woodford County from Germany in 1855 and settled on the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8 in Kansas Twp.

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